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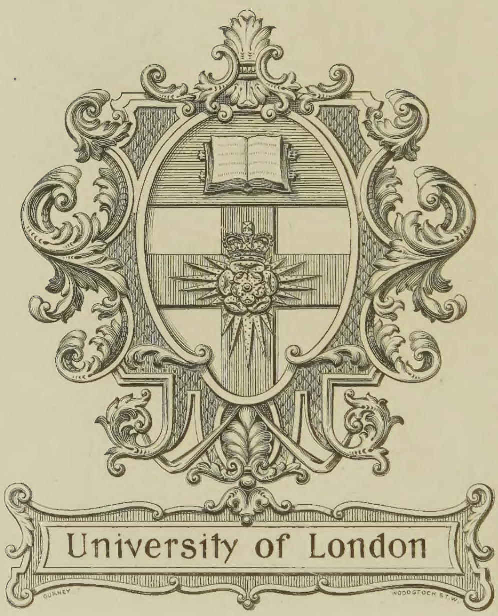
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

3 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CXXVII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE SIXTH DAY OF AUGUST
TO THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST, 1903.

TENTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

1903.

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CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.: Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

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Moved, "That the Standing Orders be amended as follows—

'New Standing Order: 25C. Where, under the powers of any Bill, any water may be taken, collected, or impounded for the purpose of a water supply, the Promoters shall, on or before the 30th November, deposit at the Office of the Local Government Board, and also at the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, an Ordnance map on the scale of 6 inches to a mile, showing by a distinguishing mark the position of each reservoir, well, conduit, or other work proposed to be authorised by the Bill; and where the proposed source of supply is a river, stream, or lake, an Ordnance map on the scale of not less than 1 inch to a mile, showing by a clearly marked line the catchment area or gathering ground from which the waters are derived. Where, under the powers of any Bill, it is proposed to supply with water any area not previously included within the Promoters' limits of supply, the Promoters shall similarly deposit an Ordnance map on the scale of 1 inch to a mile, showing respectively the existing limits of supply and the area proposed to be added thereto.

'29. Where, under the powers of any Bill, any work is intended to be made, maintained, varied, extended, or enlarged, or any lands or houses may be taken or used compulsorily, or an improvement charge may be imposed, a copy of so much of the said plans and sections as relates to any of the areas hereinafter mentioned, together with a copy of so much of the book of reference as relates to such area, shall, on or before the 30th day of November, be deposited with the officer respectively hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, in the case of—(*d*) Any parish in England or Wales comprised in a rural district and not having a parish council, with the chairman of the parish meeting and with the clerk of the district council.

'92. No petition praying to be heard upon the merits against any Local Bill or Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be received by this House unless the same is presented by being deposited in the Private Bill Office before three o'clock in the afternoon, in the case of Local Bills on or before the 19th February, and in the cases of Provisional Order Confirmation Bills or Bills presented on petition and originating in this House, on or before the seventh day after the day on which such Bill has been read a second time.

'105*a*. Where any body of persons corporate or unincorporate sufficiently representing a particular trade, business, or interest in any district to which any Railway Bill relates, petition against the Bill, alleging that such trade, business, or interest will be injuriously affected by the rates and fares proposed to be authorised by the Bill, it shall be competent for the Select Committee to whom the Bill is referred, if they think fit, to hear the petitioners or their counsel or agents and witnesses on such allegation against the Bill, or any part thereof, or against the rates and fares proposed to be authorised by the same.

"105*c*. Where the council of any administrative county or county borough or being a Joint Committee of Councils of administrative counties or county boroughs petition against a Bill, alleging that such county or county borough or some part thereof will be injuriously affected by the Bill, it shall be competent for the Select Committee to whom the Bill is referred, if they think fit, to hear such petitioners or their counsel or agents and witnesses on such allegation against the Bill or any part thereof.'"—(*The Earl of Morley.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Standing Orders amended accordingly, and to be printed as amended. (No. 197.)

IRISH LAND BILL.—House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of MORLEY in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Lord Clonbrock 6

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 5, after the word 'Commission' to insert the words 'in the case of a holding exceptionally circumstanced.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 7
The Earl of Dunraven 8
The Earl of Westmeath 9
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) ... 9

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Lord Clonbrock 10
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland (Lord Ashbourne) 11
The Earl of Dunraven 12

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 58 ; Not-Contents, 59.

Lord Clonbrock 13

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 10, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert the words 'provided that if any person interested in the estate makes application to the Land Commission in the prescribed manner, the order sanctioning the advance shall set forth the specific grounds for dealing with the case under this sub-section instead of under the foregoing provisions of this section.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 13
Lord Clonbrock 14
The Earl of Donoughmore 14
Lord Ashbourne 15
Lord Inchiquin 15
Lord Macnaghten 16
The Duke of Devonshire 16

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 64 ; Not-Contents, 61.

The Earl of Dunraven 17

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 10, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert as a new sub-section the words, 'If by agreement between the owner of an estate and the tenants the whole number of tenants on any estate are willing to purchase at a sum, which in the aggregate if payable in purchase annuities represents a reduction of not less than 10 nor more than 30 per cent. per annum below the existing rent, the Land Commission shall sanction the advance and shall apportion the amounts payable according to the terms of agreement between the owner and the individual tenants.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 19

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Earl of Westmeath 20

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 3, after the word 'person' to insert the words 'and provided also that the provision of this paragraph shall not apply to any holding which, on the 1st day of January, 1903, was in the occupation of a tenant.'"—(*The Earl of Westmeath.*)

Lord Ardilaun 21
Lord Barrymore 21
The Marquess of Lansdowne 22
The Earl of Crewe 25
Lord Clonbrock 25

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The Earl of Dunraven ... 26
Lord Robertson ... 27
Earl Spencer ... 28
The Earl of Donoughmore ... 29
The Earl of Westmeath ... 30
The President of the Board of Education (*The Marquess of Londonderry*) ... 31

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 61 ; Not-Contents, 71.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

The Earl of Donoughmore ... 33

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 23, to leave out the words 'and adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of the estate.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Duke of Devonshire ... 35

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Belmore ... 36

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 26, after the word 'him,' to insert the words 'or to a person nominated by the Land Commission as his representative;' and in line 27, after the word 'resold,' to insert the words 'to the owner or his representative as aforesaid.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

The Duke of Devonshire ... 37

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Duke of Manchester ... 37

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 36, leave out Sub-section 3."—(*The Duke of Manchester.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne ... 38

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Belmore ... 38

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 40, to leave out the words, 'to the vendor.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Belmore ... 39

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 5, after the word 'it,' to insert the following new sub-section—'(5) Any advance made to a vendor under this section for the re-purchase by him of any land may include the re-purchase of any mansion, dwelling-house, or other buildings thereon."—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

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Lord Ashbourne 39

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Dunboyne 40

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 5, after the word 'it' to insert the following new sub-section—'(5) In estimating the amount which may be advanced under this section for the re-purchase by the vendor of any demesne or other land, and any mansion or dwelling-house or other buildings thereon, the Land Commission may take into account the aggregate amount of the purchase-money of the holdings and other parcels of land sold by the same vendor, or by his predecessors in title, under this Act.' "—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

Lord Ashbourne 40

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 5, after the word 'it,' to insert the following new sub-section: '(5) If the owner of any demesne, or other land subject to settlement and sold to the Land Commission, does not re-purchase the same within the prescribed time, the Land Commission may make an advance under this section to the trustees of the settlement, and in such case the land resold shall be held subject to the trusts of the settlement.' "—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 41

On Question, sub-section, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Lord Inchiquin 41

Amendment moved, "To insert the following new clause:

'Where the tenant of a holding desires to sell his interest in the whole or any part thereof, and the landlord desires to purchase the same, the Land Commission may advance to the landlord the purchase money thereof on the same terms as to amount and repayment as are provided in this Act respecting advances to tenants for the purchase of their holdings.' "—(*Lord Inchiquin.*)

The Earl of Crewe 42
Lord Castletown 42
The Marquess of Lansdowne 43
Earl Spencer 43
The Earl of Donoughmore 44
The Duke of Devonshire 45

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Lord Monteagle of Brandon 45
Lord Ashbourne 45

Clause 5 agreed to.

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Clause 6.

Lord Oranmore and Browne 46

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, to leave out Sub-sections 4 and 5 and insert the words: '(4) Where the owner of an estate makes an application in the prescribed manner under this clause, the Land Commission may certify to the Lord Lieutenant that the purchase and re-sale of the estate are desirable, in view of the wants and circumstances of the tenants, then such an estate shall be considered a "congested estate," and thereupon the Land Commission may purchase the estate for a price to be agreed upon, and, in such case, the condition in this section as to re-sale without prospect of loss may be relaxed to such an extent as the Lord Lieutenant may determine. Provided always that no estate shall be deemed to be a "congested estate," unless half the area thereof consists of holdings not exceeding £5 in rateable value, or of mountain or bog land, or not less than a quarter of the area of which is held in rundale, or intermixed plots.'"—(*Lord Oranmore and Browne.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 47

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7 .

Lord Dunboyne 47

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 21, after '1858' to insert the words, 'and to which the provisions of Section 40 of the Act of 1896 apply.'"—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

Lord Ashbourne 48
Lord Castletown 49

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Clonbrock 49

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 37, after the word 'offer,' to insert the words 'and the amount of purchase money therefor.' In line 39, after the word 'Commission,' to insert the words 'and the amount of purchase money therefor.' In line 40, after the first word 'the,' to insert the word 'total.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 49
Lord Castletown 49

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clauses 7 to 10 agreed to.

Clause 11.

The Duke of Abercorn 50

Amendment moved—

"In page 7, line 16, to leave out the words 'the foregoing provisions,' and insert the words 'Sub-section 1 of Section 1.'"—(*The Duke of Abercorn.*)

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The Duke of Devonshire 50
The Duke of Abercorn 51

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12.

Lord Monteagle of Brandon 51

Clause 12 agreed to.

Clause 13.

The Earl of Donoughmore 51

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, to leave out Sub-section 1 and insert the following new sub-sections: '(1) Where any land is sold under the Land Purchase Acts, all sporting rights shall, after the sale, in default of any agreement to the contrary, and subject to the subsequent provisions of this Act, remain vested in the persons in whom the same were vested in like manner as the same were held immediately prior to the sale of the said land, and for the same interests, but subject to the provisions of the Ground Game Act, 1880. (2) The tenant shall be at liberty, at the time of the sale of the land, to transfer to the vendor, by agreement, any such rights as shall be at that date vested in him, upon any such terms as may be agreed upon. (3) In default of any such agreement between the tenant and the vendor, all sporting rights, save those already vested in the vendor, shall go to and be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission shall offer the same for sale or letting in the first place to the vendor of the estate; and in case the vendor shall refuse to purchase same, then the Land Commission may deal with same as they may think fit. (4) Where a sale has taken place under the Land Purchase Acts of holdings or an estate, and the purchase agreement provides that the sporting rights shall belong to the vendor, or where the sporting rights vest in the Land Commission under this Act, there shall be vested in the vendor or the Land Commission, and their respective successors and assigns, the right [of sporting upon and over such holdings or estate, together with the right to enter on said lands to take all necessary steps for the due preservation of game and fish thereon, and] to prosecute trespassers in pursuit of game or fish thereon, as fully and effectually as if they were the legal occupier of the land, and for all such purposes they shall be deemed to be such occupier.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Earl of Dunraven 56
Lord Massy 58
The Duke of Abercorn 59
The Marquess of Lansdowne 60
The Marquess of Ripon 63
Earl Stanhope 64
Lord Castletown 65
Lord Clonbrock 65
Lord Ashbourne 66

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Morley 67

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Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 6, at end, to insert the words 'in default of any such agreement between the tenants and the vendor all sporting rights save those already vested in the vendor shall go to and be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission may deal with the same subject to any regulations which may be made by the Lord Lieutenant.'"—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendments moved—

"In page 8, line 4, to leave out the word 'landlord' and insert the word 'vendor.' Line 5, leave out the word 'tenant' where-ever that word occurs and insert the word 'purchaser.' Line 6, to leave out the word 'landlord' and insert the word 'vendor.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

The Earl of Donoughmore 68

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 8, after the word 'land' to insert the words 'and the word "game" shall for all purposes be construed according to the definition thereof in any existing Act of Parliament.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

Lord Ashbourne 69

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Castletown 69

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 10, to leave out from the word 'or' to the word 'estate' in line 11.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

Lord Ashbourne 70

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Dunraven 70

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 10, after the word 'estate' to insert the words 'unless the owner of the estate, with the consent of the tenants and the Land Commission, shall have arranged otherwise.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven.*)

Lord Ashbourne 70
The Earl of Dunraven 71

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 13, after the word 'on' to insert the words 'or under.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

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Lord Castletown 71

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 15, after the word 'Parliament' to insert the words 'provided that the Land Commission may acquire upon such terms as may be agreed upon and may be sanctioned by the Treasury any such rights of mining and taking minerals on any estate which is being sold by an owner under the Land Purchase Acts.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

Lord Ashbourne 72

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 20, to leave out from the word 'Crown' to the end of Sub-section 3, and insert the words 'Provided also that where any such right reserved to the Land Commission under this sub-section is at any time hereafter let, leased, sold, or demised by them, the vendor (or the person who would have been entitled thereto if the lands had not been sold) shall be entitled to receive 50 per cent. of any rent, purchase-money, or other net profit received by the Land Commission in respect of same, unless the Land Commission shall have purchased from the person entitled to such percentage his interest therein, and the Land Commission may purchase such interest at any time on such terms as may be sanctioned by the Treasury.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

Lord Ashbourne 73
Lord Castletown 74

On Question, Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

The Earl of Dunraven 74

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 24, to leave out the words 'the first mentioned' and insert the words 'any such.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 14.

Lord Monteagle of Brandon 75

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 36, after the word 'Commissioners' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) Where the said Commissioners withhold such consent the Land Commission may, with the consent of the County Council, make an order vesting the monument in the latter body under the provisions of Section 19 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.'"—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

Lord Ashbourne 75

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 14 agreed to.

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Clause 15.

Amendment moved—

"In page 9, line 25, after the word 'Acts' to insert the words 'to tenants.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Macnaghten 76
Lord Ashbourne 76

Clause 15, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 16 agreed to.

Clause 17.

Lord Castletown 77

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 33, after the word 'person,' to insert the words 'other than a mortgagee in possession.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

Lord Ashbourne 78

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 4, after the word 'person' to insert the words 'not under disability.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Dunboyne 78

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 10, after the word 'obtained' to insert the words, 'Provided that the person next entitled in remainder expectant on the determination of the estate of the vendor at the time of the proposed sale shall have due notice of the sale, and be entitled to appear and object.'"—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

The Duke of Abercorn 78
The Earl of Belmore 78
Lord Dunboyne 79
Lord Monteagle of Brandon 79
Lord Ashbourne 79

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 17, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 18.

The Duke of Devonshire 80

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 13, after '1896,' to insert the words 'which interest shall be at a rate of not less than 3½ per cent. per annum.'"

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

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Lord Clonbrock 8

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 18, after the word 'holdings' to insert the following new sub-section: '(2) The value of such arrears of rent, if not agreed upon between the vendor and the Land Commission, shall be fixed by the Judicial Commissioner, and shall be paid by the Land Commission to the vendor over and above the purchase-money of the lands.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

Lord Ashbourne 81
Lord Castletown 81

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19.

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 3, to leave out the word 'had' and insert the word 'have.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20.

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 6, leave out the word 'of' and insert the words 'mentioned in.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21 agreed to.

Clause 22.

Lord Castletown 8

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 22."—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 8

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 22 agreed to.

Clause 23.

The Duke of Abercorn 8

Amendment moved—

"In page 13, line 10, to leave out from the word 'any' to the end of the paragraph and insert the words 'person aggrieved by any decision of an Estates Commissioner sitting alone may require his case to be reconsidered by the three Estates Commissioners sitting together, and any person interested may require that any question of law shall be referred for the decision of a Judicial Commissioner.'"—(*The Duke of Abercorn.*)

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The Duke of Devonshire ... 84
The Earl of Donoughmore ... 84
The Duke of Abercorn ... 85
Lord Ashbourne ... 85
Lord Dunboyne ... 86

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 60 ; Not-Contents, 63.

The Earl of Rosse ... 87

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 3, after the word 'with' to insert the words 'the Land Judge or,' and after the word 'Commissioners' to insert the words 'as the case may be.'"—(*The Earl of Rosse.*)

The Duke of Devonshire ... 87

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Westmeath ... 88

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 12, after the word 'Commissioners' to insert the words 'or any other vendor.'"—(*The Earl of Westmeath.*)

Lord Monteagle of Brandon ... 89
Lord Ashbourne ... 89

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Donoughmore ... 90

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 20, to leave out from the word 'Commissioners' to the word 'make' in line 23 and insert the words 'and the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland, or a majority of them, if such majority includes the Judicial Commissioner, may, subject to the approval of the Lord Lieutenant.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

Lord Ashbourne ... 90
The Earl of Donoughmore ... 91

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24.

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 14, to leave out the words 'or order as the case may be,' and insert the words 'for sale.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 17, to leave the words 'Estates Commissioners' and insert the words 'Land Commission.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

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The Earl of Dunraven 91

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 13, to leave out the words 'to such an extent as may be sanctioned by the Treasury.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 92
The Earl of Dunraven 93

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Castletown 93

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 30, after the word 'prescribed,' to insert the words 'as if the purchase money distributable under this section were money paid or deposited under those sections.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 37, to leave out the word 'the' and insert 'a.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 38, after the word 'appealed' to insert the words 'on any question other than one of law.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 24, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 25.

The Earl of Arran 94

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, lines 4 and 5, to leave out the words 'making a claim upon,' and insert the words 'whose claim has been so attached to.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Lord Ashbourne 95
The Earl of Arran 95

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 10, after the word 'claim,' to insert the words 'or so much thereof as may be directed to be discharged out of the purchase money.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 11, after the word 'payable,' to insert the words 'out of the purchase money, or recoverable under any agreement or covenant, or chargeable on any other lands or securities which may be subject to such claim along with the lands sold.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

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Viscount Templetown 97

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 13, after the word 'advances,' to insert the words 'provided that in case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts a vendor shall be entitled to pay off any charge or incumbrance thereon notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or other instrument to the contrary.'" —(*Viscount Templetown.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 97

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 25, as amended, agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"After Clause 25, to insert as a new clause the words 'Where a person who would otherwise be entitled to sell land under the Land Purchase Acts is a lunatic, the Lord Chancellor may order the land to be sold as if the sale was required for one of the purposes mentioned in Section 63 of the Lunacy Regulation (Ireland) Act, 1871, and that section shall apply accordingly.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 26 agreed to.

Clause 27.

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 29, after the word 'equalled' to insert the words 'half yearly or.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 27, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 34 agreed to.

Clause 35.

Amendment moved—

"In page 19, line 28, to leave out the words 'in so far as any' and insert the word 'where.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 19, line 29, to leave out the words 'to purchasers to be repaid by means of purchase annuities.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 19, line 41, to leave out the words 'purchase of the land' and insert the words 'vesting of the land in the Commission.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

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Amendment moved—

"In page 20, line 17, to leave out the words 'repayable by means of purchase annuities' and insert the words 'on which such 10s. per cent. is payable by the Land Commission.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 20, line 25, to leave out the words 'repayable by means of purchase annuities,' and insert the words 'on which such 10s. per cent. is payable by the Land Commission.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 35, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 36 agreed to.

Clause 37.

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 3, to leave out the word 'eight' and insert the word 'seven.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 37, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 38.

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 36, after the word 'made' to insert the words 'and may only be varied.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Donoughmore 99

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 37, to insert the following new sub-section: (5) 'From the first day of November next after the passing of this Act, the sum payable in respect of any sale accruing due after that date for any rent due in respect of any ecclesiastical lease or any Trinity College lease or grant in perpetuity, shall be varied from the amount at which it stood previously to such date in accordance with the average percentage of the variation of rents declared by the certificate of the Land Commission to have taken place with respect to the county in which the lands out of which such rent is payable are situate, as if such rent were a tithe rent charge within the meaning of the Tithe Rent-Charge Act, 1900, and all the provisions of the said Act shall apply to such rent, anything in the Trinity College, Dublin, Leasing and Perpetuity Act, 1851, or in any deed or grant made in pursuance thereof to the contrary notwithstanding.

'The Land Commission may, if they think fit, order such rent to be redeemed at a price to be fixed by them on the basis of the variation so declared by them as aforesaid, as if such rent were a tithe rent-charge within the meaning of Section 18 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1857.'"—(*The Earl Donoughmore.*)

Lord Rathmore 104
The Earl of Rosse 107
Lord Castletown 107

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The Earl of Belmore 108
Lord Ashbourne 109
The Earl of Donoughmore 111

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 38, as amended, agreed to.

House resumed; and to be again in Committee to-morrow: The Committee to have precedence of the other Notices and Orders of the Day.

County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill. — Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow 111

Poor Law (Dissolution of School Districts and Adjustments) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow 111

Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill.—Amendments reported (according to Order); a further Amendment made, and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow ... 111

LONDON TRAFFIC.

The Earl of Morley 111
The Duke of Devonshire 112

The House adjourned at half-past Twelve o'clock a.m. till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Gateshead Corporation Bill; Stroud and District Tramways Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 112

Brighton Corporation Bill [LORDS] (King's Consent signified).—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 113

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SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Copy presented, of Forty-second Annual Report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (England and Wales) for 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 114

NAVIGABLE INLAND WATERWAYS (COMMERCIAL, No. 7, 1903).—Copy presented, of Reports from His Majesty's representatives on Navigable Inland Waterways in Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Germany, and the Netherlands [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 114

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Returning Officers' Expenses Bill.—"To provide for the payment of Returning Officers' Expenses out of the rates," presented by Mr. Herbert Samuel; supported by Mr. Bell, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Charles Douglas, Sir William Holland, Mr. Jacoby, Mr. Lloyd-George, Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. J. W. Wilson, and Mr. J. H. Whitley; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. (Bill 314.) ... 153

Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools Bill.—"For promoting Agricultural Education and nature study in public elementary schools," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings; supported by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Rothschild, Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore, Mr. Flower, Mr. Spear, Mr. Morrell, Colonel Webb, and Sir Fortescue Flannery; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. (Bill 315.) 154

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).—Ordered, That on this day, notwithstanding anything in Standing Order 15, Business other than Business of Supply may be taken before Midnight, and Business in Committee or Proceedings on Report of Supply may be taken after midnight.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)... 154

SUPPLY [22ND ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903–4.—CLASS II.

1. £116,499, to complete the sum for Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Ireland.

Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.) 154
Mr. Boland (Kerry, W.) 156
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 158
Mr. Delany (Queen's Co., Ossory) 160
Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.) 161

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Mr. Boland 162
The Attorney-General for Ireland (*Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.*) ... 162
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 167
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 168
Mr. P. J. O'Brien (*Tipperary, N.*) 168
Vote agreed to.
£37,690, to complete the sum for Local Government Board, Ireland.
Mr. J. P. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) 169
Mr. Wyndham 172
Mr. T. M. Healy 174
Colonel Nolan (*Galway, N.*) 178
Mr. Delany 179
Sir James Haslett (*Belfast, N.*) 181
Mr. Murphy 181
Mr. Atkinson 183
Mr. William Redmond 186
Mr. Coghill (*Stoke-upon-Trent*) 187
Vote agreed to.
3. £10,314, to complete the sum for Chief Secretary for Ireland—Offices.
Mr. P. J. O'Brien 188
Mr. O'Shaughnessy (*Limerick, W.*) 189
Mr. Atkinson 190
Mr. Delany 192
Mr. Atkinson 193
Vote agreed to.
And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.
Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next, Committee to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [22ND ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.
(In the Committee.)
[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]
CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—CLASS I.
Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £321,697, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government Property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expenses of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 194
Mr. J. H. Lewis (*Flint Boroughs*) 196
Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 197
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Elliot, Durham*) 199
Mr. Crooks (*Woolwich*) 201
Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 203
Mr. Caldwell 204

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Motion made, and Question put, "That Item G be reduced by £1,000 in respect of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 70 ; Noes, 179. (Division List No. 229.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

And, it being after Ten of the Clock, the Chairman, in pursuance of Standing Order 15, put severally the Questions, That the total amounts of the Votes outstanding in each Class of the Civil Service Estimates, including Supplementary Estimates, and the total amount of the Votes outstanding in the Estimates for the Army, be granted for the services defined in those Classes and Estimates.

CLASS I.

2. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £133,423, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class I. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

		£
13.	Public Works and Buildings, Ireland .	106,128
14.	Railways, Ireland	27,214
		£133,342"

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 191 ; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 230.) 205

CLASS II.

3. Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £366,072, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class II. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

		£
1.	House of Lords Offices	4,507
2.	House of Commons Offices . . .	16,820
5.	Foreign Office	34,887
7.	Privy Council Office	5,130
9.	Mercantile Marine Services . . .	68,860
13.	Civil Service Commission . . .	25,393
14.	Exchequer and Audit	38,321
15.	Friendly Societies Registry . . .	4,581
21.	Public Works Loan Commission . .	13
22.	Registrar-General's Office . . .	22,942
25.	Works and Public Buildings Office .	37,200
26.	Secret Service	25,000
	SCOTLAND.	
27.	Secretary for Scotland's Office . .	9,985
28.	Fishery Board	10,837
29.	Lunacy Commission	3,162
30.	Registrar-General's Office . .	3,145
31.	Local Government Board . .	9,157
	IRELAND.	
32.	Lord Lieutenant's Household . .	2,817
35.	Charitable Donations and Bequests .	997
37.	Public Record Office	3,348
38.	Public Works Office	20,053
39.	Registrar-General's Office	6,894
40.	Valuation and Boundary Survey . .	12,023
		£366,072"

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 191 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 231.) 209

CLASS III.

4. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,402,874, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of the following Services included in Class III. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
1. Law Charges	38,984
2. Miscellaneous Legal Expenses . . .	22,489
SCOTLAND.	
10. Law Charges and Courts of Law . .	52,405
11. Register House, Edinburgh . . .	27,053
12. Crofters' Commission	2,790
13. Prisons	50,840
IRELAND.	
14. Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	33,600
15. Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland . .	57,805
16. Land Commission	76,740
17. County Court Officers, &c. . . .	66,527
18. Dublin Metropolitan Police . . .	55,468
19. Royal Irish Constabulary . . .	792,002
20. Prisons	68,508
21. Reformatory and Industrial Schools .	54,099
22. Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum .	3,564
	£1,402,874"

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 193 ; Noes, 69. (Division List No. 232.) 211

CLASS IV.

5. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £854,228, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of the following Services, included in Class IV. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
6. Scientific Investigation, &c. (United Kingdom)	45,000
8. Public Education (Scotland) . . .	808,828
9. National Gallery (Scotland) . . .	400
	£854,228"

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 193 ; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 233.)... 215

CLASS V.

6. Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £1,236,998 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class V. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

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	£
1. Diplomatic and Consular Services	284,780
2. British Protectorates in Uganda	445,593
3. Colonial Services	361,525
4. Cyprus (Grant-in-Aid)	2,000
5. Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable	40,100
6. Treasury Chest Fund	103,000
	£1,236,998"

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 195 ; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 234.)... 219

CLASS VI.

7. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £393,521, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following services included in Class VI. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
1. Superannuation and Retired Allowances (including a Supplementary sum of £4,000)	342,914
2. Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions	1,000
3. Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	646
4. Hospitals and Charities (Ireland)	342
5. Savings Banks' and Friendly Societies' Deficiencies	48,619
	£393,521"

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 197 ; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 235.). 221

CLASS VII.

8. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £61,082, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class VII. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
4. St. Louis Exhibition	50,000
5. Repayment to the Civil Contingencies Fund	11,082
	£61,082"

The Committee divided : —Ayes, 196 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 236.) 225

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

8. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £783,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure on the following Army Services, including Army (Ordnance Factories), viz. :—

	£
11. Establishments for Military Education	134,500
12. Miscellaneous Effective Services	62,000
13. War Office, Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	331,500
Army (Ordnance Factories)	255,000
	£783,000"

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The Committee divided :—Ayes, 196 ; Noes, 69. (Division List No. 237.) 227

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Rothesay Corporation Order Confirmation Bill; Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Dover Corporation Bill; Hainault Forest Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to—Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords]; Bristol Corporation Bill [Lords]; Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Manchester Corporation Bill [Lords]; Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [Lords]; Birmingham District Tramways Bill [Lords], without Amendment 231

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1901–2.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Whereas it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.—(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £205,224 2s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £220,819 4s. 1d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £15,595 1s. 7d.; (*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Grants for Navy Services fell short of the total estimated receipts by the sum of £89,584 0s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule, while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £168,173 16s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule, so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £78,589 15s. 9d.; (*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses - - - - -	275,779	5	11
Total Deficits - - - - -	181,594	8	7
Net Surplus - - - -	£94,184	17	4

And whereas the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations-in-Aid, in respect of the same services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

1. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.		Navy Services, 1901–1902. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations-in-Aid.	
			Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	..	Wages, &c. of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines	39,328 19 8	..	6,168 16 10	..
2	..	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	3,749 7 0	..	..	13,753 19 1
3	..	Medical Establishments and Services	..	11,570 2 0	..	503 10 2
4	..	Martial Law	921 10 3	..	..	38 4 6
5	..	Educational Services	..	5,831 15 5	2 14 8	..
6	..	Scientific Services	742 5 10	..	..	3,247 1 5
7	..	Royal Naval Reserve	..	45,773 16 10	..	82 14 4
8	..	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.				
Sec. 1	..	Personnel	18,822 18 5	..	..	886 3 1
Sec. 2	..	Matériel	86,826 19 8	..	..	70,164 7 1
Sec. 3	..	Contract Work	..	77,974 15 9	36,800 10 11	..
9	..	Naval Armaments	..	24,989 10 0	..	57,440 0 0
10	..	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad ..	..	38,324 12 9	..	22,052 7 3
11	..	Miscellaneous Effective Services	35,940 0 9	..	44,329 6 10	..
12	..	Admiralty Office	4,975 6 7	..	..	5 9 9
13	..	Half-Pay, Reserved and Retired Pay	..	16,354 11 4	824 12 0	..
14	..	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	6,314 19 7	..	1,445 12 9	..
15	..	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	3,704 13 11	..	12 6 11	..
		Amount written off as irrecoverable	3,897 0 10	..	..	..
			205,224 2 6	220,819 4 1	89,584 0 11	168,173 16 8
			Net Surplus, £15,595 1 7		Net Surplus, £78,589 15 9	

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer £94,184 17 4

Whereas it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.:—(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £4,796,909 14s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £2,923,978 7s. 2d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services exceeded the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £1,872,931 7s. 9d.; (*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £235,231 13s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £2,362,289 3s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £2,127,057 10s. 2d.; (*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses - - - - -	3,773,058	9	4
Total Deficits - - - - - -	3,518,932	6	11
Net Surplus - - - -	£254,126	2	5

And whereas by a Vote of Parliament during the present session (House of Commons Paper, No. 255, of 1903) a further sum of £100 has been granted for the expenditure of the year 1901–2, and the appropriation of additional receipts in aid of such expenditure has been sanctioned to the amount of £1,872,831 7s. 9d.

And whereas the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Army Services, 1901-1902. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations-in-Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, &c., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments) ..	689,068 5 6	..	227,385 3 1	..
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, &c. ..	99,267 3 7	..	..	2,770 9 3
3	Militia - Pay, Bounty, &c.	..	1,066,248 1 8	7,802 5 5	..
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances..	..	141,624 16 8	..	0 6 6
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances ..	..	24,276 14 2	..	1,275 12 7
6	Transport and Remounts	2,285,301 19 3	..	..	168,046 2 7
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies ..	1,506,875 16 0	..	..	1,168,151 11 0
8	Clothing Establishments, and Services ..	..	160,802 17 3	..	79,147 18 4
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair	..	1,110,777 16 11	..	378,456 18 6
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services ..	41,394 3 9	..	..	33,895 11 6
11	Establishments for Military Education ..	..	6,188 4 0	..	3,514 16 11
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services.. ..	54,448 5 8	..	..	425,727 14 9
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	24,676 10 0	..	..	315 16 4
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, &c. ..	..	414,059 16 6	..	23,207 5 8
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, &c. ..	81,166 9 4	..	..	77,778 19 9
16	Superannuation, Compensation, & Compassionate Allowances	1,565 3 1	..	44 5 0	..
	Balances irrecoverable '..	13,145 18 9	..	..	..
		4,796,909 14 11	2,923,978 7 2	235,231 13 6	2,362,289 3 8
	Add Excess Vote	..	100 0 0	..	..
		4,796,909 14 11	2,924,078 7 2	235,231 13 6	2,362,289 3 8
		Net Deficit, £1,872,831 7 9		Net Surplus, £2,127,057 10 2	
				Net Surplus ... £254,226 2 5	

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

1. Resolved, That, towards making good the Supply to be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, the sum of £100 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

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2. Resolved, That, towards making good the Supply to be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, the sum of £75,392,969 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.—(*Mr. Elliot.*)

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next.

Sugar Convention Bill—[THIRD READING].—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 237
Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester) 241

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercromby) 243
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 244
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 247
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 250
Mr. Theodore Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe) 251
Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 253
Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe) 255
Mr. Priestley (Grantham) 256
Mr. Lawrence 257

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 119 ; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 238.)

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read the third time and passed.

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.) 259
Mr. Joseph Devlin (Kilkenny, N.) 261

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. MacVeagh.*)

Question, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for this day.

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill.—As amended, considered.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 29, after the word 'otherwise,' to insert the words, 'Nothing in this Act shall affect any powers which a railway company may have independent of this Act.'"—(*Sir Charles Renshaw.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

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Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 262
Mr. A. J. Balfour... 262

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Caldwell 262

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow. [Bill 316.]

Patriotic Fund Bill.—As amended, considered.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'thereof,' to insert the words 'and all property held in trust therefor.'"—(*Mr. Pretyman.*)

"In page 1, line 23, after the word 'position,' to insert the word 'legally.'"—(*Mr. Hayes Fisher.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed. 263

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES [SALARIES, &C.].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of any Salaries and Expenses which may become payable under any Act of the present Session to transfer to the Board of Agriculture powers and duties relating to the Industry of Fishing, and to amend the Board of Agricuture Act, 1889.—(*Mr. Elliot.*)

Resolution to be reported this day 263

Housing of Working Classes (No. 2) Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland) 264

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

MOTOR CARS [EXCISE DUTY].—Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an Excise Duty on persons employed as drivers of motor-cars of the same amount as is payable on male servants, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to amend the Locomotives on Highways Act, 1896."

Resolution agreed to 264

POST OFFICE (CONTRACT FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF MAILS BETWEEN GLASGOW, GREENOCK, AND CAMPBELTOWN).—Resolved, "That the Contract, dated 9th day of March, 1903, with the Campbeltown and Glasgow Steam Packet Joint Stock Company, Limited, for the conveyance of mails between Glasgow, Greenock, and Campbeltown, printed in Parliamentary Paper No. 132, of session 1903, be approved."—(*Mr. Elliot.*) 264

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes after Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—

Patent Office (Extension).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 265

Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill, now Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 265

Wood Green Urban District Council Bill.—Commons' reasons for disagreeing to one of the Lords' Amendments considered: The said Amendment not insisted on: and a message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith 265

Sugar Convention Bill; Patriotic Fund Bill.—Brought from the Commons 265

Liverpool University Bill [H.L.]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 265

Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 265

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.—Report from the Joint Committee made on the 13th of July last, to be printed. [No. 183.] 265

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3052, China (Chefoo).
No. 3053, Spain (Barcelona).
No. 3054, Japan (North Formosa).
No. 3055, Japan (Shimonaseki). 265

COLONIES (ANNUAL).—St. Helena (Report for 1902) 265

CANADA.—Address to His Majesty on Irish affairs from the House of Commons of Canada, and the reply thereto 266

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.—Thirty-second Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1902–3 266

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.—Annual Report on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in the year 1902–3; with statements respecting the several colleges and institutions aided, the experiments conducted and the expenditure on agricultural instruction by County Councils in 1901–2.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table... 266

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Sugar Convention Bill.—Read 1^{a}; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} on Monday next: (*The Lord President—Duke of Devonshire*). [No. 198.] ... 265

Patriotic Fund Bill.—Read 1^{a}; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} on Monday next; (*The Earl of Selborne*). [No. 199.] 266

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.—Second Report of the Select Committee made; to be printed; and to be considered on Tuesday next. [No. 200.] 266

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Morley*) 266
Lord Tweedmouth 267

Irish Land Bill.

House again in Committee (according to order).

Clause 39 agreed to.

Clauses 40 and 41 agreed to.

Clause 42.

Verbal Amendment agreed to.

Clause 42, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 43 agreed to.

Clause 44.

Lord Clonbrock 269

Amendment moved—

"In page 23, line 29, after the word 'advance' to insert the words, 'save as hereinafter provided.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 270
Lord Castletown 271

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 54; Not-Contents, 56.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 44, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 45 and 46 agreed to.

Clause 47.

The Earl of Westmeath 273

Amendment moved—

"In page 24, line 28, to leave out the word 'may' and to insert the word 'shall.'"—(*The Earl of Westmeath.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 273

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Dunraven ... 274

Amendment moved—

"In page 24, line 29, to leave out the word 'advances,' and to insert the words 'the total of the fund of £12,000,000 appropriated for the purposes of this Act, or so much thereof as may from time to time be advanced.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven.*)

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) ... 276
The Marquess of Ripon ... 276
The Earl of Dunraven ... 276

On Question, That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 68; Not-Contents, 51.

Lord Macnaghten ... 277

Amendment moved—

"In page 24, line 30, to leave out the words 'pay to the vendor,' and insert the words, 'in the case.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

The Earl of Dunraven ... 281
Lord Castletown ... 281
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 282
Lord Robertson ... 284

On Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 96; Not-Contents, 28.

Amendment moved—

"In page 24, line 36, after the word 'thereof' to insert the words 'or where the percentage is payable in respect of an estate sold by the Land Judge.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Dunboyne ... 287

Amendment moved—

'In page 25, line 8, to leave out from the word 'by' to the word 'a' in line 12."—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

Lord Castletown ... 288
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland (*Lord Ashbourne*) ... 288

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 25, line 9, to leave out the words 'either a receiver has been appointed over the estate or.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

'In Page 25, line 11, after the word 'price' to insert the words 'or to an estate so circumstanced in respect of which an absolute order for sale by the Land Judge was in force at the date of the passing of this Act.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

Lord Castletown 289
The Duke of Devonshire 289
The Earl of Dunraven 289
The Earl of Donoughmore 290

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Castletown 290

Amendment moved—

"In page 25, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(5) An advance may be made under this Act in respect of the sale of any holding under the provision of Section 36 of the Act of 1896, and the same percentage shall be payable in respect of the said advance, as if such sale was a sale under this Act.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 290

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 47, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 48 agreed to.

Clause 49.

The Earl of Donoughmore 291

Amendment moved—

"In page 25, at the end of the clause, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) The provisions of this section shall apply to all sales under the Land Purchase Acts in the Land Judges' Court, and in these cases no duty shall be payable under Section 88 of the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, or under Sections 1 and 2 of the Landed Estates (Ireland) Act (1858) Amendment Act, 1861, or under Section 4 and the schedule of the Landed Estates Court Act, 1866.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 291
The Earl of Donoughmore 292

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 49 agreed to.

Clause 50.

Lord Castletown 292

Amendment moved—

"In page 25, line 32, after the word 'in' to insert the words '(*a*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon rates or taxes levied under the authority of any Act of Parliament or Provisional Order by any municipal corporation or other local authority in the United Kingdom, which shall be authorised to borrow on such security; (*b*) Ground rents arising out of hereditaments in the United Kingdom and not exceeding in amount one-fourth part of the annual value at a rack rent of the premises out of which such ground rents issue; (*c*) Debentures or mortgages of railway companies in the United Kingdom incorporated by Act of Parliament; (*d*) Stocks or shares of any tramway or light railway interest upon which is guaranteed from or charged upon rates under the Tramways (Ireland)

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Acts; (*e*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon any investments in which trustees are authorised by this or any other Act to invest trust funds; (*f*) Debentures or fully paid shares or stocks of any railway or commercial or industrial company in the United Kingdom, provided that the sufficiency of such investment to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust shall be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustee under this Act; or.' "—(*Lord Castletown.*)

Viscount Templetown 293
The Earl of Belmore 294
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 294
The Duke of Devonshire 295
The Lord Chancellor 295

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Lord Dunboyne 295

Amendment moved—

"In page 26, after Sub-section 3, to insert the following new Sub-section: '(4) In the case of all proceedings in relation to any lands sold in the High Court or under the Land Purchase Acts, or any charges thereon, or any moneys realised thereby, if it appears to the Court that a trustee is or may be personally liable for any breach of trust, whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the passing of this Act, but has acted honestly and reasonably and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust, and for omitting to obtain the directions of the Court in the matter in which he committed such breach, then the Court may relieve the trustee, either wholly or partly, from personal liability for the same.' " (*Lord Dunboyne.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 296

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 49; Not-Contents, 66.

Clause 50 agreed to.

Clause 51.

Viscount Templetown 297

Amendment moved—

"In page 26, line 36, after the word 'by' to insert the words 'the Land Judge or.' "—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 297

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 11, after the word 'require' to insert the following new sub-section: 'The powers conferred on the Land Commission by the foregoing provisions of this section may be exercised by the Land Judge in any case where the purchase money of land sold under the Land Purchase Acts is or has been, distributed by him, and those provisions shall apply accordingly, with the substitution of the Land Judge for the Land Commission.—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

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On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 12, after the word 'by' to insert the words 'the Land Judge and.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Duke of Abercorn 299

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 12, to leave out the words 'the Land Commission,' and to insert the words 'a majority of the Land Commissioners, which majority shall include the Judicial Commissioner.'"—(*The Duke of Abercorn.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 51, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 52.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 28, to leave out from the word 'that' to the words 'in the' in line 32; in line 34, after the word 'county' to insert the words 'the said limitation may, subject to the other limitations in the Land Purchase Acts, be exceeded where the Land Commission consider that a larger advance may be sanctioned to any purchaser without prejudice to the wants and circumstances of other persons residing in the neighbourhood'; and in page 28, lines 3 and 4, to leave out the words 'under the circumstances aforesaid,' and insert the words 'where the Land Commission consider it expedient under the circumstances mentioned in the preceding sub-section.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Viscount Templetown 300

Amendment moved--

"In page 27, to leave out Clause 52."—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 301

On Question, that Clause 52, as amended, stand part of the Bill, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 54 ; Not-Contents, 50.

Clause 52, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 53.

The Duke of Devonshire 303

Amendment moved—

"In page 28, line 25, after the word 'after' to insert the words 'they become aware of.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

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Amendment moved—

"In page 28, line 34, after the word 'otherwise' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) Not more than one person shall without the consent of the Land Commission be registered as the owner of a holding under Part IV. of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 29, line 2, after the word 'part' to insert the words 'the consent of the Land Commission under this enactment may, in the case of a charge created by a will, be given at any time whether before or after the death of the testator.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 29, line 3, to leave out the word 'a' and to insert the word 'the,' and after the word 'holding' to insert the words 'executed after the commencement of this Act.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 29, line 7, after the word 'chargeant,' to insert the words 'or, in the case of a charge created by a will or codicil, within six months from the death of the testator.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Monteagle of Brandon 305

Amendment moved—

"In page 29, line 8, after the word 'void,' to insert as a new sub-section the words 'No shop debt shall be recoverable by the sale of any such holding, not exceeding ten pounds in rateable value, on which the proprietor resides.'"—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

Lord Castletown 305
Marquess of Lansdowne 305

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 53, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 54.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 54, as amended, agreed to.

Viscount Templetown 306

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 54, to insert the following new clause: 'The word "estate" in Section 5 of the Act of 1881 shall include such lands of a landlord as are retained by him, or repurchased upon any sale of an

estate under the Land Purchase Acts, including this Act, and the Land Commission may authorise a resumption under the said section, notwithstanding that the holding in respect of which such resumption is authorised is held at a judicial rent fixed for a first or subsequent statutory term.'"—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

The Earl of Crewe ... 306
Lord Clonbrock ... 307
The Marquess of Lansdowne ... 307
Lord Inchiquin ... 308
The Duke of Devonshire ... 308
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland ... 310
Lord Castletown ... 311
The Marquess of Lansdowne ... 312
The Earl of Donoughmore ... 312
Lord Tweedmouth ... 313
The Duke of Abercorn ... 313
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland ... 313
The Duke of Devonshire ... 314

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 55.

Amendments moved—

"In page 29, line 24, to leave out the word 'require' and insert the words 'request to be furnished with.'"

"In line 26, to leave out from the word 'holding' to the word 'an' in line 27, and insert the words 'in respect of which.'"

"In line 27, after the word 'Acts' to insert the words 'has been made.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Clause 55, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 56.

Lord Castletown ... 315

Amendment moved—

"In page 30, line 34, after the word 'matter' to insert as a new sub section the words 'in the cases of sales to tenants other than sales by the Land Commission or sales by the Land Judge, the date at which interest on the purchase-money payable under Sub-section 2 of Section 35 of the Act of 1896, shall begin to be payable shall be—(*a.*) If the agreement for purchase be made on any first day of May or first day of November, from the date of such agreement; (*b.*) In all other cases from a date to be specified in the agreement, and not being earlier than the gale day immediately preceding the date of agreement, and the same shall be payable by the Land Commission to the vendor.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland ... 316

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 56, as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 57.

Lord Castletown 317

Clause 57 agreed to.

Clause 58 agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "After Clause 58 to insert as a new clause: (1.) Where, in the course of proceedings for the sale under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, or the Land Purchase Acts, of an estate it appears that the owner or any tenants of holdings on the estate are in occupation of portions of an adjoining estate, and that the owner or any tenants of holdings on the adjoining estate are in occupation of portions of the first-mentioned estate, whether such exchange of occupation is the result of an agreement or is occasioned by the alteration of the course of a stream, or otherwise, the Land Judge or the Judicial Commissioner, as the case may be, may, if he thinks it expedient, with the consent of the owners of the respective estates, make an order ratifying the exchange, and the order or a map or plan annexed thereto shall show the lands given and taken in exchange respectively. (2.) The lands taken upon any such exchange shall be deemed to be held by the same tenure, and shall, without any conveyance or other assurance in relation thereto, go and enure to and upon the same uses and trusts and be subject to the same rents, conditions, charges and incumbrances, as the land given upon such exchange would have stood limited upon, and been subject to, if the order had not been made; and the land given upon such exchange shall be deemed to be held by the same tenure and shall without any conveyance or other assurance in relation thereto, go and enure to and upon the same uses and trusts and be subject to the same rents, conditions, charges and incumbrances, as the land taken upon such exchange would have stood limited upon and been subject to if the order had not been made. (3.) All rights and remedies for recovery of rents payable in respect of either portion of the lands so exchanged shall be exercisable in respect of and may be pursued against the lands given or taken upon such exchange as the case may be, in the same manner as they might theretofore have been exercised or pursued against the lands originally liable thereto.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 59.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 32, line 18, to leave out the word 'the,' and insert the word 'a.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Drogheda 318

Amendment moved—

> "In page 32, after Sub-section 7, to insert as a new sub-section: '(8) In all cases in which the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenue are parties to any proceedings in the High Court or the Land Commission, the Court or Judge shall have power to award costs to or against said Commissioners.' "—(*The Earl of Drogheda.*)

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Lord Robertson 319
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 319
Lord Dunboyne 319

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 59, as amended, agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "After Clause 59, to insert as a new clause the words: 'When any quit rent or other perpetual rent payable to the Crown or any portion thereof has been for a period of not less than twenty years, or is, under the provisions of any contract, paid in respect of any lands, such rent, or portion thereof, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be charged on those lands whether originally so charged or not.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 60.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 32, line 36, after the word 'balance' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(3) Where in the like case the Court is satisfied that the land sold is entitled to be indemnified against any claim in respect of a superior interest by other lands, and that the other lands are a sufficient security therefor, the Court may, upon such terms (if any) and in such manner as appears equitable, exclusively charge the whole of the superior interest upon the other lands. (4) The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply with the necessary modifications to any superior interest or portion thereof affecting the land sold, or to the redemption money of such interest or portion, as if the same were land sold.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 32, line 39, after the word 'Crown' to insert the words 'Court in this section means the Land Judge or the Judicial Commissioner as the case may be.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 320

On Question, Amendment disagreed to.

Clause 60, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 61.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 33, to leave out Sub-section 3."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 61, as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 62.

The Earl of Donoughmore ... 321

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, line 17, to omit the words 'therein mentioned' in order to insert the words 'of a superior interest.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Castletown ... 322

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, line 19, after the word 'be' to insert the words 'and in determining such price, regard shall be had to the rate of interest which might be obtained upon such redemption price if the same were invested in trustees' securities.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Earl of Belmore ... 322
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland ... 323
Lord Castletown ... 323

On Question, Amendment disagreed to.

Clause 62, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 63.

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, line 22, to leave out the words 'for the non-payment of any sum due to them.'"—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 63, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 64 agreed to.

Clause 65.

The Marquess of Lansdowne ... 324

Amendment moved—

"In page 34, line 6, after the word 'deposit' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(3) Where any land upon which portion of a purchase annuity has been arranged by the Land Commission is conveyed to the proprietor of a holding subject to a purchase annuity, that holding and the land so conveyed shall be deemed one holding, and of the said annuity, and portion shall be payable in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.'"—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Oranmore and Browne ... 325

Amendment moved—

"In page 34, after line 6, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(3) The powers and provisos for the redemption or satisfaction of superior interests conferred by Section 31 of the Act of 1896 shall be varied and extended so as to enable the owner to satisfy a terminable charge by investing a capital sum in investments authorised pursuant to this Act, the interest on which will be sufficient to pay the charge,

and thereupon the balance of the purchase-money shall be discharged from any lien in respect of such superior interest, and upon the termination of the charge the said capital sum so invested shall revert to the person or persons to whom the benefit of the succession would have accrued on the death of the annuitant had the estate not been sold.' "—(*Lord Oranmore and Browne.*)

On Question, Amendment disagreed to.

Clause 65, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 66 agreed to.

Clause 67.

Lord Castletown 326

Clauses 67 and 68 agreed to.

Clause 69.

Amendment moved—

"In page 34, line 42, after the word 'may' to insert the words 'on the application of any person interested, or without such application, with the consent of the Lord Chancellor,' and leave out the words 'such authority', and insert the words 'the Judicial Commissioner if he thinks fit.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 69, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 70.

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 17, after the word 'cent.' to insert the words 'per annum.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 70, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 71 agreed to.

Clause 72.

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, line 40, after the word 'the,' to insert the words 'trustees of the.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 72, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 73 agreed to.

Clause 74.

Amendment moved—

"In page 36, line 18, after the word 'less,' to insert as a new sub-section the words, '(2) Sub-section 4 of Section 3 of this Act shall apply in the case of any land in respect of which an advance is made in pursuance of this section.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

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Clause 74, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 75 agreed to.

Clause 76.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 36, line 35, after the word 'cutting,' to insert the words 'or making.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 76, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 77 to 81 agreed to.

Clause 82.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 38, line 2, after the word 'Board,' to insert the words 'in lieu of the members of the Land Commission nominated under Sub-section 1 of Section 34 of the Act of 1891.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 82, as amended, agreed to.

The Duke of Devonshire 328

Amendment moved—

> "After Clause 82 to insert as a new clause the words: 'Section 18 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, which makes provision with respect to congested districts counties, is hereby repealed.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 83 agreed to.

Clause 84.

Lord Castletown 328

Amendment moved—

> "In page 38, line 35, after the second word 'Commissioner' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) For the purpose of assisting the County Court Judge in determining any question under the Land Law Acts relating to a holding, the Land Commission shall assign to each Civil Bill Court a Lay Assistant Commissioner, who shall inspect the holding, sit with, and assist the County Court Judge as a Lay Assessor.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 329

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 84 agreed to.

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Clause 85.

Amendment moved—

"In page 38, line 36, at the beginning of the clause to insert the words 'subject to the provisions of this Act.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Macnaghten 329

Amendment moved—

"In page 38, line 38, to leave out the word 'appeals,' and insert the words 'apply for a re-hearing.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 330
Lord Macnaghten 331
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 332
Lord Dunboyne 332
Lord Macnaghten 333

On Question, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 42; Not-Contents, 55.

Words inserted.

Lord Castletown 333

Amendment moved—

"In page 39, line 5, at the end, to insert the words, 'who shall inspect the holding and report thereon to the Judicial Commissioner.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 335

On Question, Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Amendments moved—

"In page 39, line 10, after the word 'which' to insert the words 'should have been but.'"

"In line 12, after the word 'Commissioner,' to insert the words 'who hears the appeal.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 39, line 22, after the word 're-hearings' to leave out the words to the end of line 23."—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 336

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 85, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 86 agreed to.

Clause 87.

The Earl of Westmeath 336

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 87."—(*The Earl of Westmeath.*)

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The Earl of Arran 337
The Duke of Devonshire 337

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 88.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 17, after the word 'reason' to insert the word 'solely.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 19, to leave out the word 'judicially' and insert the words 'in the absence of other provisions.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 21, after the word 'apply' to insert the words 'as from the commencement of this Act.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Castletown 338

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 24, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert as a new sub-section: 'Any tenant holding land under a lease or grant made in pursuance of the provisions of the Church Temporalities Acts or the Trinity College Leasing Powers Acts reserving a variable rent calculable as aforesaid may, if such rent exceeds one-half the annual rateable value of such land, apply to the Land Commission in the prescribed manner to have the rent payable under such lease or grant varied in the same manner as is provided by the said Act of 63 & 64 Vict., c. 58, in respect of tithe rent-charge, and thereupon the Land Commission shall, after giving such notice as may be prescribed to the owners of such rents, determine the said rent in the same manner as if the said rent were tithe rent-charge, and the provisions of the said Act will apply with the necessary modifications.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 88, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 89 agreed to.

Clause 90.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 30, after the words '1881' to insert the words 'or under that section.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Donoughmore 339

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 31, after the word 'days' to insert the words 'all such rules shall be made by a majority of the Land Commissioners, which majority shall include the Judicial Commissioner.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 340

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 90, as amended, agreed to.

Lord Emly 340

Amendment moved—

> "After Clause 90, to insert as a new clause the words 'The occupier of any cottage now or hereafter to be erected under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, shall be entitled to purchase his homestead on such terms as the Local Government Board shall approve, not being a larger sum than the said cottage cost to the District Council, and the Land Commission may advance to such occupier the entire purchase money on the same terms as this Act provides for agricultural holdings.' "—(*Lord Emly.*)

The Earl of Belmore 341
Lord Monteagle of Brandon 342
The Duke of Devonshire 343

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 91.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 40, line 38, to leave out the words 'the representation,' and insert the words 'any representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, affecting him.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Emly 343

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 40, line 39, after the word 'day' to insert the words 'or any artisan wholly or mainly employed by the agricultural population in the district.' "—(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 91, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 92.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 41, line 6, after the word 'representation,' to insert the words 'and should they propose to make any alteration in the said scheme, they must state in writing the reason or reasons for such alteration, and submit this reason or those reasons so stated in writing to the Local Government Board, for the sanction, amendment, or rejection of such alteration by the Local Government Board.' "—(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 92 agreed to.

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Clause 93.

Lord Emly 345

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'a Court of summary jurisdiction' and insert the words 'the County Court Judge.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

The Earl of Donoughmore 345
Lord Inchiquin 346
Lord Robertson 347
The Duke of Devonshire 348
The Earl of Meath 349
The Earl of Westmeath 350
Lord Emly 350

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 48; Not-Contents, 66.

Words inserted.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 11, after the word 'compensation,' to insert the words 'against his employer.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 351
The Earl of Camperdown 352

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 13, to leave out the word 'Court' and insert the words 'County Court Judge.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 14, to leave out the word 'Court and insert the words 'County Court Judge shall.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Emly 353

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 15, to leave out the word 'three' and insert the word 'six,' and after the word 'wages' insert the words 'and costs of proceedings against his employer, and the notice and order thereon shall be free of stamp duty.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

The Earl of Crewe 353

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Lord Inchiquin 354

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 93."—(*Lord Inchiquin.*)

On Question, "That Clause 93, as amended, stand part of the Bill," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 44; Not-Contents, 68.

Clause 94.

Lord Emly 355

Amendment moved—

> "In page 41, line 19, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'hold a public and sworn inquiry, of which fourteen clear days' notice shall have been previously conspicuously given by means of notices posted on the police barrack and post office nearest to the said estate.'" —(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 41, line 21, after the word 'therefore,' to insert the words 'accommodation shall not be deemed sufficient unless there be a cottage and an acre plot to every fifty acres of such estate, and such cottages may be placed, and such acres selected, on holdings not abutting on a public highway, and the Land Commission shall have power to make such provision for a right of way to such cottages as they may deem reasonable.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 41, line 23, to leave out from the word 'Ireland' to the word 'under' in line 25 and insert the words 'and shall be deemed a scheme formulated by the council of the rural district in which the land comprised in the scheme is situate.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 94 agreed to.

Clause 95.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 41, line 30, to leave out the words 'must either be' and insert the words 'is either.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 41, line 31, to leave out the word 'be' and insert the word 'is.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 95, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 96.

The Duke of Devonshire 356

Amendment moved—

> "In page 42, line 6, to leave out from the word 'Commission' to the end of the paragraph, and insert the words 'in the manner directed by Sub-section 6 of Section 29 of the Act of 1891. The expression 'demesne' includes any mansion house or other buildings thereon: The expression 'vesting order' includes fiat."—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 42, line 34, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'or enactment,' and after the word 'amending' to insert the word 'applying.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 96, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 97.

The Earl of Donoughmore 357

Amendment moved—

"In page 43, line 3, after the word 'vendor,' to insert the words 'or tenant.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 357
The Earl of Donoughmore 357
The Duke of Devonshire 358

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 43, line 4, after the word 'sale,' to insert the words 'Provided that the foregoing provisions of this Act shall apply to any such rights upon the termination of any outstanding estate or interest therein, in the same manner as if such rights had been in the possession or enjoyment of the vendor at the time of sale.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 97 agreed to.

Clause 98 agreed to.

Lord Macnaghten 358

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 98, to insert as a new clause the words: 'In the framing of any rules relating to legal procedure, the remuneration of solicitors under the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act, the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland for the time being shall be associated with the Land Commission as a member of the rule-making authority.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 359
Lord Macnaghten 359

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 99 agreed to.

Clause 100 agreed to.

Clause 101 agreed to.

Schedule.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 44, line 21, after the first word 'three' to insert the words, 'In Sub-section 1 of Section 34, from "a member" to "forestry"

and the words 'the Chief Secretary when absent shall be replaced by the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Title, agreed to.

The Duke of Devonshire 360
The Marquess of Ripon 361

Standing Committee negatived.

The Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 201.)

House adjourned during pleasure; and resumed by the Earl of Morley.

ARTILLERY OFFICERS.

Viscount Templetown 361
The Under Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Hardwicke*) 361

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Viscount Templetown 362
The President of the Board of Agriculture (*The Earl of Onslow*) 363

Bill read 2ª (according to Order).

Naval Works Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The First Lord of the Admiralty (*The Earl of Selborne*) 364

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

Lord Tweedmouth 371

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Employment of Children Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Belper 375

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Ireland Development Grant Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Denbigh 377

Bill read 2ª (according to Order): Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

GRIEVANCES OF RESERVE OFFICERS.

Lord Rosmead 377
The Earl of Hardwicke 379

Post Office Sites Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next 381

BRITISH CONSUL-GENERAL IN CRETE.

Lord Newton 381
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 384

Addenbrooke's Hospital Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed ... 385

County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill.—Third Reading (which stood appointed for yesterday) put off to Monday next 385

Poor Law (Dissolution of School Districts and Adjustments) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 385

Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 385

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered on Monday next in order to its being suspended for the remainder of the session 385

House adjourned at twenty minutes before One o'clock a.m. to Monday next, Three o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Cork Harbour Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Erith Tramways and Improvement Bill; Great Central Railway Bill; North Eastern Railway Bill; Sheffield Corporation Bill; South Yorkshire Joint Railways Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 386

Bradford Corporation Bill [LORDS]; Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 386

North-Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [LORDS].—To be read the third time upon Monday next 386

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [LORDS].—A verbal Amendment made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 386

Salford Corporation Bill [LORDS] (King's Consent signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 386

Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 386

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PRIVATE BILLS.—Ordered, That Standing Orders 220 and 246, relating to Private Bills, be suspended for the remainder of the session.

That as regards Private Bills to be returned by the House of Lords with Amendments, such Amendments (if unopposed) be considered forthwith.

That as regards Private Bills to be returned by the House of Lords with Amendments, such Amendments (if opposed) shall be considered at such times as the Chairman of Ways and Means may determine.

That when it is intended to propose any Amendments thereto, a copy of such Amendments shall be deposited in the Private Bill Office, and notice given on the day on which the Bill shall have been returned from the Lords.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 386

Hastings Harbour Bill [LORDS].—Ordered, That Standing Orders 211 and 236 be suspended, and that the Committee of Selection have leave to appoint the Committee on the Bill, to sit and proceed on Tuesday, 11th August.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 387

South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 387

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 387

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Wick and Pulteney Harbours Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill, Coventry Electric Tramways Bill, Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill, now—Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway Bill, with Amendments.

Amendment to Amendments to—East Ham Improvement Bill, without Amendment 387

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 321.] 387

TRADE (BRITISH COLONIES WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 322.] 387

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.—Copy presented, of Thirty-second Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1902–3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 388

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS).—Copy presented, of Annual Report on the Distribution of Grants for Agricultural Education and Research in the year 1902–3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 388

CANADA.—Copy presented, of Address to His Majesty on Irish Affairs from the House of Commons of Canada, and the Reply thereto [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 388

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 392 (St. Helena, Annual Report for 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 388

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EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.—Ordered, That the several Accounts and Papers which have been presented to the House in this session of Parliament relating to the Revenues of India be referred to the consideration of a Committee of the Whole House.—(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

Resolved, That this House will, upon Thursday next, resolve itself into the said Committee.—(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) 388

RAND MINES (NATIVE MORTALITY).—Address for "Return of the Statistics of Mortality, Sickness and Desertion amongst the natives employed in the Rand Mines during the period October, 1902, to March, 1903."—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*) 388

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT).—Return ordered, "showing according to the accounts for the twelve months preceding the 31st day of March, 1903, furnished to the Local Government Board under Section 1 (7) of the London (Equalisation of Rates) Act, 1894; (1) The amounts paid during the year out of the Equalisation Fund under the Act to the Corporation of the City of London and each of the Councils of Metropolitan Boroughs to whom payments out of that fund were made; (2) The amount of the expenses incurred during the year by each of these authorities (a) under the Public Health (London) Act 1891 (including expenses of scavenging streets); (b) in respect of lighting; and (c) in respect of streets (other than the expenses of scavenging); and (3) The amount expended during the year by each such authority out of the sums received by them under the Act (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 301, of session 1902)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson*) 388

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT, 1902–3.—Return ordered, "showing in respect of the financial year ended the 31st day of March, 1903, the distribution of the proceeds of the Local Taxation Licences, Estate Duty, and Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Duties paid into the Local Taxation Account in pursuance of the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1888, the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, and The Finance Act, 1894 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 274, of session 1902)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*) 389

DUTIES ON BRITISH GOODS (FOREIGN COUNTRIES).—Order [24th April, 1902] for Return relative thereto read, and discharged.—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) .. 389

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

MARINE INSURANCE LAW CONSOLIDATION BILL.—Question, Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 389

REGULATIONS AS TO IMPORTATION OF DOGS.—Question, Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 390

PAY OF DOCKYARD JOINERS.—Question, Mr. Kearley (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 391

COST AND PLANS OF PROPOSED EXTENSION OF BRITISH MUSEUM.—Questions, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley); Answers, Mr. Victor Cavendish ... 391

MODEL OF PROPOSED NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO QUEEN VICTORIA.—Question, Lord Balcarres; Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 391

RATES PAID BY RAILWAY COMPANIES TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 392

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IRISH POSTAL ORDER DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 392

IRISH NON-VOTED ACCOUNTS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Elliot ... 393

GRANT TO SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY.—Question, Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell (Glasgow, College); Answer, Mr. Elliot 393

CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE, LONDON—MEAL RELIEFS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 394

RYNN AND BLACK RIVER DRAINAGE, COUNTY LEITRIM.—Questions, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 394

EDUCATION OF TAMIL CHILDREN IN CEYLON.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain ... 395

TRANSFER OF ADEN FROM INDIA OFFICE TO FOREIGN OFFICE.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 396

MR. E. T. HOOLEY.—Questions, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answers, Sir Robert Finlay 396

Motor-Cars Bills [LORDS].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham) 397

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'drives,' to insert the words 'or being an owner permits when present.'"—*(Sir Frederick Banbury.)*

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 398
Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) 398
Mr. Cripps (Lancashire, Stretford) 399
Mr. Wallace (Perth) 399
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 399
Mr. Lawson Walton (Leeds, S.) 399
Mr. Burdett-Coutts (Westminster) 400
The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 400

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, to leave out the words 'when present.'"

Amendment to proposed Amendment agreed to.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 37; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 239.)

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Mr. Walter Long 401
Mr. Dalziel 401

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'recklessly or negligently, or.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 402
Mr. Malcolm (Suffolk, Stowmarket) 403

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Allhusen (Hackney, Central) 403

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'or at a speed.'"—(*Mr. Allhusen.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 404
Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.) 404
Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) 404
Mr. Scott-Montagu (Hampshire, New Forest) 405

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) 405

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out from the word 'highway' to the word 'that' in line 10."—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 405
Major Jameson (Clare, W.)... 405
Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham) 406
Mr. Dalziel 406
Mr. Seely (Lincoln) 406
Sir Albert Rollit 407
Mr. Lawson Walton 407
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 408
Mr. Randles (Cumberland, Cockermouth) 408
Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Prestwich) 409

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'must,' to insert the words 'having regard to the provisions of Section 8.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 409
Mr. Kenneth Balfour (Christchurch) 410
Mr. Dalziel 410
Sir Charles Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.) 410

Mr. Bayley 410
Mr. Scott-Montagu 411
Mr. T. M. Healy 411
Mr. Walter Long 411

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'might,' to insert the word 'reasonably.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Seely 412

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out the words, 'this Act,' and insert the words, 'the Highway Act, 1835.'"—(*Mr. Seely.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 412

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Walter Long 413

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, at end to insert the words '(2) A person shall not under any circumstances drive a motor-car at a speed exceeding twenty-five miles an hour, and if any person acts in contravention of this provision he shall be liable on summary conviction in respect of the first offence to a fine not exceeding £10, and in respect of the second offence to a fine not exceeding £20, and in respect of any subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding £50.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. T. M. Healy 414
Sir Albert Rollit 414

Amendment amended by inserting in line 1, after the word "car" the words, "on a public highway."—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Mr. Broadhurst 415

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"In line 2, to leave out the words 'twenty-five' and insert the word 'fifteen.'"—(*Mr. Broadhurst.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'twenty-five' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

Sir Frederick Banbury 416
Major Jameson 416
Mr. Cripps 417
Mr. Wallace 417
Sir F. Dixon Hartland (Middlesex, Uxbridge) 418
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 418
Sir Charles Renshaw 419
Mr. Fuller (Wiltshire, Westbury) 420

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Mr. Remnant (*Finsbury, Holborn*) ... 420
Mr. Channing ... 421
Mr. Kenneth Balfour ... 422
Mr. J. P. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) ... 422
Mr. Louis Sinclair (*Essex, Romford*) ... 423
Mr. Lawson Walton ... 423
Sir Philip Muntz (*Warwickshire, Tamworth*) ... 423
Mr. Marshall Hall (*Lancashire, Southport*) ... 424
Mr. Walter Long ... 425
Sir M. Hicks Beach (*Bristol, W.*) ... 427
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) ... 427
Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 428
Mr. Kilbride (*Kildare, S.*) ... 429
Mr. Dalziel ... 430

Mr. BROADHURST rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put;" but the Chairman withheld his assent, as it appeared to him that the Committee was prepared to come to an immediate decision.

Question put, "That the words 'twenty-five' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 42; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 240.)

Question put, "That the word 'fifteen' be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 51; Noes, 178. (Division List No. 241.)

Question, "That the word 'twenty' be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Mr. Murray (*Coventry*) ... 433

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"In line 4, to leave out the word 'ten' and insert the word 'five.'"—(*Mr. Murray.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'ten' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

Mr. Walter Long ... 435
Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 435
Mr. Dalziel ... 435
Major Jameson ... 436
Sir Albert Rollit ... 436
Mr. Haviland Burke (*King's County, Tullamore*) ... 437

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 163; Noes, 36. (Division List No. 242.)

Mr. Louis Sinclair ... 439
Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 439
Mr. Marshall Hall ... 440
Mr. William Redmond ... 440

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"In line 6, to leave out the words 'a fine not exceeding £50,' and insert the words 'a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month.'"—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

Page
Sir Robert Finlay 441
Major Jameson 442

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, as amended, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Dalziel 442

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"At the end, to add the words 'provided that proof of the exact measurement and rate of speed be produced.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. Walter Long 443
Mr. T. M. Healy 443
Sir Albert Rollit 443
Major Jameson 443
Mr. Louis Sinclair 444
Sir Fortescue Flannery (*Yorkshire, Shipley*) 445
Mr. Scott-Montagu 445
Captain Greville (*Bradford, E.*) 445
Mr. Wallace 446
Mr. T. M. Healy 446
Sir Robert Finlay 448
Mr. Dalziel 448
Mr. Marshall Hall 449
Sir Robert Finlay 450
Mr. Dalziel 450
Lord Alwyne Compton (*Bedfordshire, Biggleswade*) 451
Mr. Norman (*Wolverhampton, S.*) 451

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 45; Noes, 140. (Division List No. 243.)

Question, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"After the last Amendment to insert the words, 'Provided that a person prosecuted for an offence under this Section shall not be convicted on the evidence of one witness only.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. T. M. Healy 453
Lord Hugh Cecil (*Greenwich*) 454

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Dalziel 454

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out Sub-section 2.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 455
Sir Fortescue Flannery 456
Mr. Griffith Boscawen (*Kent, Tunbridge*) 456
Major Jameson 456
Mr. Scott-Montagu 456

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Mr. Griffith Boscawen 457

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, after the word 'constable' to insert the words 'in uniform.'"—(*Mr. Griffith Boscawen.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 457
The Lord Advocate (*Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire*) 457
Mr. Norman 458
Mr. Griffith Boscawen 458
Mr. Bayley 458
Major Jameson 458

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, at end, to insert the words, 'who refuses to give his name and address, or whose motor-car does not bear the mark or marks of identification.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the word 'and,' and insert the word 'or.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Major Jameson 459

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out from the word 'Act' to end of clause."—(*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 460
Major Jameson 460

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Allhusen 460

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £10.'"—(*Mr. Allhusen.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 461

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir Frederick Banbury 461

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, at end, to insert the words '(4) If a driver of a motor-car refuses to stop the movement of the engine when the motor-car is stationary when requested to do so by a police constable or by any person having charge of any horse or mule, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.' "—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Scott-Montagu 461
Mr. Walter Long 461
Mr. Dalziel 461
Sir Frederick Banbury 462
Mr. Norman... 462

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Dalziel 462

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr. Scott-Montagu 463

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 26, after the word 'number,' to insert the words 'not exceeding in size seven inches in length by three inches in width.' "—(*Mr. Scott Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 463
Major Jameson 463
Mr. Walter Long 464

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Arthur Stanley (*Lancashire, Ormskirk*) 464

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 30, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'In any case in which the number hereinbefore referred to is made use of for the purpose of a prosecution, the prosecutor or informant shall by evidence prove that all possible means had been taken at the time that the alleged offence was committed to notify to the person so prosecuted that he was required to stop. In default of which, any person or persons instituting a prosecution or laying the information under the Acts aforesaid, shall pay any costs and expenses incurred by the person so prosecuted.' "—(*Mr. Arthur Stanley.*)

Mr. Walter Long 465

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out the word 'five,' and insert the word 'twenty.' "—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'five' stand part of the clause."

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 22 ; Noes, 135. (Division List No. 244.)

Word "twenty" inserted.

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Amendment proposed –

"In page 2, line 5, after the word 'way' to insert the word 'wilfully.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'wilfully' be there inserted in the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 467

Major Jameson 467

Mr. Burdett-Coutts 467

Mr. Arthur Stanley 467

Mr. Seely 467

Mr. Walter Long 468

Sir Robert Finlay 468

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 8, to insert the words, 'unless he proves that the mark had been obscured or rendered not easily distinguishable by unavoidable causes arising from natural conditions over which he had no control.'"—(*Sir Robert Finlay.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

The sitting was suspended.

On the return of the Chairman—

Clause 3.

Mr. Scott-Montagu 468

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 15, after the word 'licensed' to insert the words 'after an examination conducted by experts appointed by the Local Government Board.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The Secretary of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk*) 469

Mr. Scott-Montagu 469

Mr. Dalziel 469

Mr. Louis Sinclair 470

Mr. Pike Pease (*Darlington*) 470

Mr. Walter Long 471

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Lawrence (*Liverpool, Abercromby*) 471

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 17, at end, to insert the words 'No person shall drive a motor-car on a public highway with his face so concealed as not to be reasonably identified.'"—(*Mr. Lawrence.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Page
Mr. Walter Long ... 471
Sir Fortescue Flannery ... 471

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 2, line 22, after the word 'borough,' to insert the words 'or in the British Dominions beyond the seas or in any foreign country.'"—(*Mr. Murray.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted.'"

Mr. Walter Long ... 472

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 2, line 23, to leave out the words 'one shilling,' and insert the words 'five shillings.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'one shilling' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 472
Mr. Walter Long ... 473
Mr. Seely ... 473
Mr. Allhusen ... 474
Mr. Murray ... 474
Mr. Louis Sinclair ... 474
Mr. Seely ... 474

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 23; Noes, 89. (Division List No. 245.)

Words inserted.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 2, line 23, to leave out the words 'one shilling,' and insert the words 'five shillings.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 2, line 23, after the last Amendment to insert the words 'and who (if he has not already held a licence) shows to the satisfaction of the Council that he is competent to drive a motor-car.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, 'That those words be there inserted.'"

Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 475
Mr. Griffith Boscawen ... 476
Sir Fortescue Flannery ... 476

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 51; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 246.)

Amendments proposed—

> "In page 2, line 24, to leave out the word 'section,' and insert the word 'Act.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

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"In page 2, line 29, to leave out from beginning to end of line 31."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 32, after the word 'produced,' to insert the words 'by any person driving a motor-car.'"—(*Mr. Murray.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Major Jameson 479

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, after the word 'constable,' to insert the words 'in uniform.'"—(*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, after the word 'constable,' to insert the words 'or, in the event of the licence not being in the possession of the person at the moment of demand, he shall give the constable his name and address.'"—(*Mr. Philip Foster.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, at end, to insert the words 'If any person fails so to produce his licence he shall be liable on summary conviction in respect of each offence to a fine not exceeding £5.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Scott-Montagu 480
Mr. Walter Long 480

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Allhusen 480

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, at end, to insert the words, 'Any person who has been or shall be convicted of an offence of which drunkenness forms part shall be disqualified for obtaining a licence for a period of one year from the date of conviction, and any licence which he held at the date of such conviction shall be cancelled by such conviction.'"—(*Mr. Allhusen.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 480
Major Jameson 481
Mr. William M'Arthur (Cornwall, St. Austell) 481
Mr. Gordon (Londonderry, S.) 482
Mr. Dalziel 482
Mr. Burdett-Coutts 482

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 56 ; Noes, 79. (Division List No. 247.)

Amendment proposed—

"In pages 2 and 3, to make Sub-sections 4, 5, and 6 a separate clause, with the marginal note 'Suspension of licences and disqualification.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 30, at end, to add the words 'The council of a county or county borough may withhold for not exceeding two years from the commencement of this Act a licence to any person who has before the commencement of this Act been three or more times convicted of offences in respect of a motor-car.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay ... 483

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 483

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 30, after Sub-section 6, to insert the following subsection :—'A licence shall only be taken away or suspended or a person disqualified for obtaining a licence in consequence of a breach of Section 1 of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Dalziel ... 484
Mr. Walter Long ... 484
Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 484
Mr. William M'Arthur ... 485
Mr. Griffith Boscawen ... 485
Mr. Murray ... 485
Mr. William M'Arthur ... 485
Mr. Allhusen ... 485

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 30, at end, to insert the words, 'Any person under the age of sixteen years shall be disqualified from obtaining a licence, and any person who already holds a licence shall be disqualified from obtaining another licence while the licence so held by him remains in force.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Arthur Morton (Devonport) ... 486

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, to leave out the word 'sixteen' and insert the word 'seventeen.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Morton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'sixteen' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

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Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland) 486
Mr. Walter Long 486

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4.

Mr. Louis Sinclair 486

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 31, to leave out the words 'forges or fraudulently.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Sir Robert Finlay 487

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 32, after the word 'or' insert the words 'knowingly and.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and negatived.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Mr. Kenneth Balfour 487

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 36, after the word 'occurs,' to insert the words 'within his view or to his knowledge.'"—(*Mr. Kenneth Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 487
Mr. Moss (Denbighshire, W.) 488
Mr. Herbert Samuel 488
Mr. Gordon 488
Sir Robert Finlay 488

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, lines 36 and 37, to leave out the words 'owing to the presence of the motor-car on the road.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Louis Sinclair 489
Mr. Walter Long 489

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 37, to leave out the words 'if required,' and insert the word 'shall.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 489

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 38, after the word 'owner,' to insert the words 'and the registration mark or number.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 490

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 39, after the word 'person,' to insert the word 'knowingly.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 40, to leave out from the word 'be,' to end of clause, and insert the words 'guilty of an offence under this Act.'"—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 490
Mr. Galloway (*Manchester, S.W.*) 490

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 41, to leave out the word 'ten,' and insert the word 'fifty.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'ten' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 491

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. William Redmond 491

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 42, at end, to add the words 'and, in respect of any subsequent offence, shall be subject to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month.'"—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 491
Mr. William M'Arthur 492
Mr. Scott-Montagu 492
Mr. T. M. Healy 492

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Sir Robert Finlay 492
Mr. William Redmond 493
Mr. Kenneth Balfour 493
Major Jameson 493
Mr. Moss 493

Question put, and agreed to.

Sir Charles Renshaw 494
Mr. Arthur Lee 494
Mr. Walter Long 494
Major Jameson 494

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 4, line 10, after the word 'entry,' to insert the words 'and giving.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Shaw-Stewart (*Renfrewshire, E.*) 495

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 4, line 15, at end to insert 'with respect to the size and power of the lights to be used on motor-cars; and.'"—(*Mr. Shaw-Stewart.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 495
Mr. Scott-Montagu 495
Major Jameson 495

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 4, line 19, after the second word 'licences,' to insert the words 'and for providing special facilities for granting licences to persons not resident in the United Kingdom.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. T. M. Healy 496

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 4, line 19, after the word 'licences,' to insert the words 'and for communicating particulars thereof to adjoining or other County or County Borough Councils.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Scott Montagu 496
Mr. Walter Long 496

Question put, and agreed to.

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Mr. Walter Long 496

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 24, at end of line, to insert the words 'and may if authorised by those regulations and in accordance therewith charge in respect of the entry of particulars of the ownership of a car on change of ownership such fee, not exceeding ten shillings, as may be prescribed by the regulations, and in respect of the issue of a new licence in the place of a licence lost or defaced, such fee not exceeding one shilling, as may be prescribed by the regulations.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7.

Mr. Grant Lawson 497

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, after the word 'application' to leave out the words, 'of the Council of the County or County Borough' and insert the words 'the local authority.'"—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. T. M. Healy 497
Sir Albert Rollit 497
Mr. Dalziel 498
Mr. Walter Long 498

Question put, and negatived.

Words inserted.

Mr. Bill (*Staffordshire, Leek*) 498

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 30, after the word 'situate' to insert the words 'or at any time during which lights are required to be carried.'"—(*Mr. Bill.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 499

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Major Jameson 499
Mr. Scott-Montagu 499

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 31, to leave out the word 'ten' and insert the word 'twelve.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'ten' stand part of the clause."

Mr. William M'Arthur 499
Mr. Walter Long 499
Mr. William Redmond 500
Mr. Herbert Samuel 501
Mr. Walter Long 501
Mr. Louis Sinclair 502

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 97 ; Noes, 26. (Division List No. 248.)

Mr. Dalziel 503

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Mr. Louis Sinclair 504
Mr. Seely 504

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 34, to leave out the word 'ten,' and insert the word 'five.'"—(*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'ten' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 505

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 37, to leave out the words 'County or County Borough,' and insert the words 'local authority within the area.'"—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 39, after the word 'public' to insert the words 'and conspicuous notice by day and lighted by night.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 505
Mr. Louis Sinclair 505

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 41, to leave out from the word 'regulation,' to end of line, and insert the words 'No prosecution shall be made in the event of an offence being committed whereby, in consequence of fog, or insufficient light, the owner shall have been prevented from conforming with this regulation.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 505
Mr. T. M. Healy 505

Question put, and agreed to.

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Mr. Louis Sinclair 506

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 2, after the word 'borough,' to insert the words 'or motor-car owner.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and negatived.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 6, at beginning to insert the words 'Subject to regulation as to size and colours to be made by the Local Government Board.'"—(*Sir Charles Renshaw.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. T. M. Healy 506
Mr. Walter Long 507

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 6, after the word 'of' to insert the words 'boroughs and elsewhere than in boroughs of.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 6, to leave out the words 'and county boroughs.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause," put, and agreed to.

Mr. Wylie (Dumbartonshire) 507

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 6, after the word 'boroughs' to insert the words 'may prohibit motor-cars above any width which they consider necessary for safety from entering any narrow road within their areas, and may cause to be put up signposts to give notice to this effect, and.'"—(*Mr. Wylie.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long 507

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 8, after the word 'places' to insert the words 'on main roads where the surface is being re-metalled before rolling, and.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and negatived.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 9.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 10, after the word 'under,' to insert the words 'Section 1 of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 12, to leave out the word 'twenty,' and insert the word 'ten.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'twenty,' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long 508

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Several formal Amendments having been withdrawn,

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10.

Mr. Walter Long 509

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, to leave out Clause 10."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11.

Mr. Walter Long 509

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clauses 12 and 13 agreed to.

Clause 14.

The Financial Secretary to the War Office (*Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton*) 509
Sir Robert Finlay 510
Mr. William Redmond 510
Sir Robert Finlay 510
Mr. William Redmond 511
Mr. T. M. Healy 511

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 37, after the word 'Crown,' to insert the words 'and to the police.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and negatived.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16.

Several drafting Amendments proposed by the Lord Advocate (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) were agreed to.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 29, at end, to insert the words 'Such appeal shall lie to the sheriff depute and shall be heard summarily. Such appeal may be taken either immediately after the judgment appealed against has been pronounced, or within seven days thereafter, and upon such appeal being taken the sentence of imprisonment shall be suspended until the appeal has been disposed of; provided that the appellant shall, at the time of taking such appeal, lodge in the hands of the clerk of Court a bond with sufficient cautioner or otherwise give security satisfactory to the Court for appearing before the sheriff depute. The sheriff depute is hereby authorised and empowered on such appeal to hear evidence whether led at the original hearing or not, and to reconsider the merits of the case and reverse or confirm in whole or in part the judgment appealed against, or give such new or different judgment as he in his discretion shall think fit; and save as provided by the Summary Prosecutions Appeals (Scotland) Act, 1875, his judgment shall be final and not subject to review. (6) An appeal taken in terms of this Act by a person holding a licence against an order for suspension or disqualification shall be taken and disposed of as nearly as may be in the manner and subject to the conditions provided by the immediately preceding sub-section.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 29, at end, to insert the words '(6) Section 94 of The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889 (which relates to the recovery and application or penalties under that Act) shall apply to the recovery and application of penalties in respect of offences under this Act, and the principal Act, and in respect of breaches of any by-law or regulation made under either of said Acts.'"—(*The Master of Elibank.*)

Mr. A. Graham Murray 513

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 16, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17.

Major Jameson 513

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, at the end of Clause 17, to add the words 'The Criminal Evidence Act of 1898 except Sections 5 and 7 shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be in force.'"—(*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. T. M. Healy 514

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Clause 18.

The Master of Elibank (Edinburgh, Midlothian) 514

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 3, after the word 'car' to insert the words 'and a motor-cycle and its trailer shall for the purposes of this Act be treated as one vehicle.'"—(*The Master of Elibank.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Walter Long ... 514
Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 514
Mr. Walter Long ... 515
Mr. T. M. Healy ... 515
Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 515

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Scott-Montagu ... 516

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 8, to leave out the word 'January' and to insert the word 'March.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'January' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Walter Long ... 516

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 18 agreed to.

Mr. Luke White (*Yorkshire, E.R., Buckrose*) ... 517

Clause (Power to local authority to regulate use of roads).

"In the case of a public road or part of a public road which is of a less width than twenty feet, the Council of any County or County Borough may, with the consent of the Local Government Board make such regulations in regard to the use of such road or part of a road by motor-cars as they may consider desirable; and the Council of any County or County Borough may with such consent schedule certain roads as unsuitable for motor traffic, and may issue regulations prohibiting motor traffic on such roads."—(*Mr. Luke White.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Walter Long ... 517

Question put, and negatived.

Clause (Mode of summons).

"No summons shall be issued against any person for an offence under this Act except upon an information in writing signed by the complainant and countersigned by the clerk to the justices, and no summons shall be issued by a justice or justices except during the sessions of the petty sessional Court."—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Robert Finlay ... 518
Mr. Louis Sinclair ... 518
Mr. Dalziel ... 518

Question put.

The Committee divided; Ayes, 19; Noes, 89. (Division List No. 249.)

Clause (Duration).

"This Act shall continue in force till the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and six, and no longer, unless Parliament shall otherwise determine."—(*Mr. Murray.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause (Exemptions).

"A medical man driving a motor-car or cycle for the purpose of attending a patient who is in urgent need of his assistance shall not be liable to any penalties for exceeding the limit of speed provided under this Act."—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Walter Long 520
Mr. Scott-Montagu 520

Question put, and negatived.

Bill reported, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 317.]

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.

South African Loan and War Contribution Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1901-02.—Resolutions reported.

Whereas it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £205,224 2s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £220,819 4s. 1d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £15,595 1s. 7d.; (*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Grants for Navy Services fell short of the total estimated receipts by the sum of £89,584 0s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule, while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £168,173 16s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule, so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £78,589 15s. 9d.; (*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses - - - - -	275,779	5	11
Total Deficits - - - - - -	181,594	8	7
Net Surplus - - - - -	£94,184	17	4

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And whereas the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations-in-Aid, in respect of the same services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

1. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1901–1902. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations-in-Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 ..	Wages, &c. of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines	39,328 19 8	..	6,168 16 10	..
2 ..	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	3,749 7 0	..	..	13,753 19 1
3 ..	Medical Establishments and Services	..	11,570 2 0	..	503 10 2
4 ..	Martial Law	921 10 3	..	..	38 4 6
5 ..	Educational Services	..	5,831 15 5	2 14 8	..
6 ..	Scientific Services	742 5 10	..	..	3,247 1 5
7 ..	Royal Naval Reserve	..	45,773 16 10	..	82 14 4
8 ..	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.				
Sec. 1 ..	Personnel	18,822 18 5	..	..	886 3 1
Sec. 2 ..	Matériel	86,826 19 8	..	..	70,164 7 1
Sec. 3 ..	Contract Work	..	77,974 15 9	36,800 10 11	..
9 ..	Naval Armaments	..	24,989 10 0	..	57,440 0 0
10 ..	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad ..	..	38,324 12 9	..	22,052 7 3
11 ..	Miscellaneous Effective Services	35,940 0 9	..	44,329 6 10	..
12 ..	Admiralty Office	4,975 6 7	..	..	5 9 9
13 ..	Half-Pay, Reserved and Retired Pay	..	16,354 11 4	824 12 0	..
14 ..	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	6,314 19 7	..	1,445 12 9	..
15 ..	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	3,704 13 11	..	12 6 11	..
	Amount written off as irrecoverable	3,897 0 10	..	..	..
		205,224 2 6	220,819 4 1	89,584 0 11	168,173 16 8
		Net Surplus, £15,595 1 7		Net Surplus, £78,589 15 9	

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer £94,184 17 4

Whereas it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.:—(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £4,796,909 14s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £2,923,978 7s. 2d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services exceeded the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £1,872,931 7s. 9d.; (*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £235,231 13s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £2,362,289 3s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £2,127,057 10s. 2d.; (*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses - - - - -	3,773,058	9	4
Total Deficits - - - - -	3,518,932	6	11
Net Surplus - - - - -	£254,126	2	5

And whereas by a Vote of Parliament during the present Session (House of Commons Paper, No. 255, of 1903) a further sum of £100 has been granted for the expenditure of the year 1901–2, and the appropriation of additional receipts in aid of such expenditure has been sanctioned to the amount of £1,872,831 7s. 9d.

And whereas the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Army Services, 1901-1902. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations-in-Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, &c., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments) ..	689,068 5 6	..	227,385 3 1	..
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, &c. ..	99,267 3 7	..	..	2,770 9 3
3	Militia - Pay, Bounty, &c.	..	1,066,248 1 8	7,802 5 5	..
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances..	..	141,624 16 8	..	0 6 6
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances ..	..	24,276 14 2	..	1,275 12 7
6	Transport and Remounts	2,285,301 19 3	..	..	168,046 2 7
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies ..	1,506,875 16 0	..	..	1,168,151 11 0
8	Clothing Establishments, and Services ..	..	160,802 17 3	..	79,147 18 4
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair	..	1,110,777 16 11	..	378,456 18 6
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services ..	41,394 3 9	..	..	33,895 11 6
11	Establishments for Military Education ..	..	6,188 4 0	..	3,514 16 11
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services.. ..	54,448 5 8	..	..	425,727 14 9
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	24,676 10 0	..	..	315 16 4
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, &c. ..	..	414,059 16 6	..	23,207 5 8
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, &c. ..	81,166 9 4	..	..	77,778 19 9
16	Superannuation, Compensation, & Compassionate Allowances	1,565 3 1	..	44 5 0	..
	Balances irrecoverable	13,145 18 9	..	..	..
		4,796,909 14 11	2,923,978 7 2	235,231 13 6	2,362,289 3 8
	Add Excess Vote	..	100 0 0	..	..
		4,796,909 14 11	2,924,078 7 2	235,231 13 6	2,362,289 3 8
		Net Deficit, £1,872,831 7 9		Net Surplus, £2,127,057 10 2	
				Net Surplus ... £254,226 2 5	

Resolutions agreed to 525

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Military Works Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 525

Public Buildings Expenses Bill.—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next 525

SUPPLY [3RD AUGUST, EVENING SITTING].

Resolutions reported.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £530,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for the pay, etc., of the medical establishment, and for Medicines, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."
2. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,838,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for transport and remounts, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."
3. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,822,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for clothing establishments and services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—CLASS VII.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for a grant in aid of the expenses incurred in connection with the visit of the President of the French Republic in England, in July, 1903."
5. "That a sum, not exceeding £123,334, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Ireland Development Grant (Grant-in-Aid).

ARMY (EXCESSES), 1901-2.

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £100, be granted to His Majesty, to make good excesses of Army expenditure beyond the grants, for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Resolutions read a second time.

First two Resolutions agreed to.

Third Resolution postponed.

Subsequent Resolutions agreed to.

Postponed Resolution to be considered upon Monday next 527

Public Works Loans Bill.—Read the third time, and passed... 527

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Bill [LORDS].—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Monday next 528

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Isle of Man (Customs) Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Monday next ... 528

Sheep Scab Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next 528

Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered; Bill read the third time, and passed 528

Town Councils (Scotland) Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered; Bill read the third time, and passed 528

Marriages Legalisation Bill.—As amended, considered; Bill read the third time, and passed 528

Greenwich Hospital.—Resolved, That the Statement of the estimated expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1903-4 be approved.—(*Mr. Pretyman.*) 528

ADJOURNMENT.—Resolved, That this House, at the rising of the House this day, do adjourn till Monday next.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Three o'clock a.m. till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 10TH AUGUST, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 529

Bradford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Salford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments ... 529

PETITIONS.

ARMY.—Petition against putting any part of the cost of troops in South Africa on the Indian Revenue; of Indians resident in London, etc.; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 529

HIS HIGHNESS MAHENDRA MAHARAZA MADHAVA SINGH.—Petition for redress of grievances; of His Highness Mahendra Maharaza Madhava Singh, *de jure* Ruling Chief of Panna, in Central India; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 529

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS.

ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 3056. France (Lyons, St. Etienne, and Grenoble); No. 3057. Portugal (Madeira) 529

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.—No. 595. Report on the German Veterinary High Schools 529

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SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Report for the year 1903, by Sir Henry Craik, K.C.B. 529

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1902.—Correspondence relating to the proposed publication of the Report of the proceedings of the Colonial Conference in London in 1902... 529

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—Statistics of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1902 530

COAL SUPPLIES (ROYAL COMMISSION).—First Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of the coal resources of the United Kingdom—

Vol. I.—Report.
Vol. II.—Minutes of Evidence and Appendix.
Vol III.—Supplement.

STATISTICS.—Statistical abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1888 to 1902. Fiftieth number.

Statistical abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1888 to 1902. Fortieth number.

Statistical tables relating to the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom. Part XXVI., for the year 1901 530

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).—Return for the month of March, 1903; Return for the month of April, 1903. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 530

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Licence granted to Michael Connell, a convict, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of the Penal Servitude Act, 1864 530

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.—Order of the Local Government Board for Scotland constituting the local authority for the burgh of Glasgow, the Port Local Authority of the Port of Glasgow.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 530

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill.—Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to morrow.—(*The Lord Wolverton.*) (No. 202.) 530

South African Loan and War Contribution Bill.—Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Duke of Marlborough.*) (No. 203.) ... 531

Military Works Bill.—Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow. —(*The Earl of Hardwicke.*) (No. 204.) 531

Public Works Loans Bill.—Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Lord President*)—(*D. Devonshire*). (No. 205.) 531

Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill (No. 206); TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL (No. 207).—Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Lord Balfour.*) 531

Marriages Legalisation Bill.—Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Lord Belper.*) (No. 208.) 531

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order), and suspended for the remainder of the session 531

THE RETURN OF KANAKAS FROM AUSTRALIA.

Lord Tweedmouth 531
The Parliamentary Secretary for the Colonies (*The Duke of Marlborough*) 531
Lord Stanmore 534

POACHING IN IRELAND.

Lord Ardilaun 534

Moved —For a Return in the following form :—

FISHERY RETURNS.

District.	Penalties. Petty Sessions.	Amounts of Fines in each Case.	Solicitors' Costs against Plaintiffs.	Witnesses' Expenses.	Reduced on Memorial to Lord Lieutenant.

Summary, showing result of Columns.—(*Lord Ardilaun.*)

Lord Massy 537
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 538
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland (*Lord Ashbourne*) 539

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Patriotic Fund Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The First Lord of the Admiralty (*The Earl of Selborne*) 539

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Morley*) 540
Earl Spencer 540
Lord Welby 541

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to Order) : Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith. House in Committee accordingly. Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived. Bill read 3ª, and passed.

ugar Convention Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Marquess of Lansdowne 541

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

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Earl Spencer 549

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and add at the end of the Motion the words 'this day three months.'"—(*Earl Spencer.*)

Lord Welby 555
Lord Farrer 561
The Duke of Marlborough 564
Lord Tweedmouth 568
The President of the Board of Agriculture (*The Earl of Onslow*) ... 575

On Question, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Motion," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 108; Not-Contents, 16.

Bill read 2ª accordingly. Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 3ª and passed.

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.—Bill read 3ª (according to Order) with the Amendments.

The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 578

Further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Irish Land Bill.—Amendments reported (according to Order).

The Earl of Arran 579

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 17 and 18, to leave out the words 'passing of the Act of 1896' and to insert '1st day of January, 1886.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 579

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Belmore 580

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 24, to leave out the words 'and adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of the estate.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

Lord Cloncurry 582
The Earl of Crewe 582
The Duke of Devonshire 583

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Dunboyne 583

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 6, after the word 'it' to insert as a new subsection: '(5) In estimating the amount which may be advanced under this section for the re-purchase by the vendor of any demesne or other land, and any mansion or dwelling house or other buildings thereon, the Land Commission may take into account the aggregate amount of the purchase money of the holdings and other parcels of land sold by the same vendor or by his predecessors in title under this Act.'"—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

Lord Clonbrock 584
The Duke of Devonshire 585

On Question, Amendment negatived.

The Earl of Belmore 585

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 12, after the word 'settlement' to insert as a new sub-section the words '(5) Where any settled land is so purchased and re-sold to the vendor, or sold to such other person as aforesaid, it shall be free and discharged from all superior or intervening interests and encumbrances whatsoever, and from all terms of years, powers, and other provisions for securing the same, and the same shall be transferred to the purchase money in like manner as immediately before the sale they attached to the said lands.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 586

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Belmore 586

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 12, after the word 'settlement,' to insert as a new sub-section the words '(6) The said lands when re-sold, or sold as aforesaid, shall not be subject to the provisions of the Local Registration of Title Act, 1891, relating to the tenure upon which such land shall be held.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Clonbrock 587

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 3, after the word 'offer' to insert the words 'and the amount of purchase money therefor.'"

line 5, after the word 'Commission' to insert the words 'and the amount of purchase money therefor.'"

line 6, after the first word 'the' to insert the word 'total.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland (*Lord Ashbourne*) 588
Lord Clonbrock 588
The Earl of Belmore 588

On Question, Amendment negatived.

The Duke of Abercorn 589

Amendment moved—

"In page 7, line 25, to leave out the words 'the foregoing provisions,' and insert the words 'Sub-section 1 of Section 1.'"—(*The Duke of Abercorn.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 589
The Earl of Belmore 590

On Question Amendment agreed to.

Lord Macnaghten 590

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 13, to leave out the words 'the exclusive'; in line 14, after the first word 'rights' to insert the words 'exclusive of the tenant.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Donoughmore 591

Amendment moved—

"After Sub-section 3, in Clause 13, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) Where a sale has taken place under the Land Purchase Acts of holdings or an estate, and the purchase agreement provides that the sporting rights shall belong to the vendor, or where the sporting rights vest in the Land Commission under this Act, there shall be vested in the vendor or the Land Commission, and their respective successors and assigns, the right to prosecute trespassers in pursuit of game or fish thereon, as fully and effectually as if they were the legal occupier of the land, and for all such purposes they shall be deemed to be such occupier.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 591

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"After Sub-section 3, in Clause 13, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) Any person authorised by or in pursuance of the last preceding sub-section to enter on land for the purpose of exercising sporting rights shall have the same authority to prosecute for trespass in pursuit of game or fish as if he were the owner of the land.'"—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 9, line 20, after the word 'Commissioners,' and to insert as a new Sub-section the words: '(2) Where those Commissioners refuse to consent to the vesting of any such monument in them, the Land Commission may, with the consent of the Council of the County within which the monument is situate, make an order vesting the monument in that Council, and Sub-section 2 of Section 19 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, shall thereupon apply.'"—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Belmore 592

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 4, after the word 'holdings' to insert the words '(2) The value of such arrears of rent, if not agreed upon between the vendor and the Land Commission, shall be fixed by the Judicial Commissioner and shall be paid by the Land Commission to the vendor over and above the purchase money of the lands.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

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The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 595
Lord Clonbrock 597
The Marquess of Lansdowne 598
The Earl of Donoughmore 598

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Contents, 50; Not-Contents, 56.

The Duke of Devonshire 601

Amendment moved—

> "In page 13, line 38, after the word 'that' to leave out to the end of the sub-section, and insert the words, 'Provided that any question of law may, if the Estates Commissioners think fit, and shall, on the application of any person interested, be referred to the decision of the Judicial Commissioner unless the Estates Commissioners certify in writing that the application is frivolous.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "To insert at end of last Amendment the words 'Any person aggrieved by any refusal of the Commissioners to so refer any such question, may, in the manner prescribed by rules of Court and within the time prescribed by the Judicial Commissioner, apply to the High Court or any Judge thereof for an order requiring the Commissioners so to refer the question, and the decision of the High Court or Judge upon any such application shall be final.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Duke of Devonshire 603

Amendment moved—

> "In page 14, line 42, to leave out the words, 'agents or solicitors,' and insert the words 'land agents, solicitors, or land clerks.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 15, line 2, after the word 'nomination,' to insert the words 'may be negotiated.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Donoughmore 604

Amendment moved—

> "In page 15, line 6, after the word 'Commission' to insert as a new sub-section the words '(11) Where in the case of the sale of an estate to persons other than the Land Commission an agent has been employed by the vendor to negotiate the sale, such sum as may be sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners may, with the consent of such vendor, be paid to that agent out of the purchase money as part of the costs connected with the sale.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

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The Earl of Arran 606

Amendment moved—
"In page 15, line 21, after the word 'all,' to insert the words 'regulations and.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 608
Lord Dunboyne 609
The Earl of Donoughmore... 609
The Earl of Arran... 610
The Duke of Devonshire 610

On Question, "That those words be there inserted," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 46; Not-Contents, 62.

Amendment moved—
"In page 15, line 22, to leave out the words 'the last preceding sub-section,' and insert the words 'this section.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—
"In page 5, line 23, after the word 'made' to insert as a new Sub-section the words: '(13) On the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts, whether to the Land Commission or otherwise, the land clerk or land clerks of such estate, of not less than ten years service in estates offices in Ireland, may be transferred to the offices of the Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board, with the assent of his employer, under such rules and regulations as the Lord Lieutenant, with the consent of the Treasury, may determine.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Digby... 612

Amendment moved—
"After Clause 23, to insert the following clause: 'Land clerks of ten years service in an estate office, in which a gross annual rental of £5,000 is accounted for, shall be eligible for employment by the Estates Commissioners.'"—(*Lord Digby.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 613

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Lord Clonbrock 613

Amendment moved—
"In page 16, line 28, after the word 'estate' to insert the words 'to persons other than the Land Commission.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 614

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Amendment moved—
"In page 16, line 29, to leave out the words 'hereinafter mentioned' and insert the words 'of the agreement for the purchase of the holding.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—
"In page 16, line 33, to leave out from the word 'use' to the end of the sub-section."—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

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Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 42, after the first word 'payable' to insert the words 'out of the purchase-money or otherwise.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Arran 614

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 42, after the first word 'payable' to insert the words 'out of the purchase-money, or recoverable under any agreement or covenant, or chargeable on any other lands or securities which may be subject to such claim along with the lands sold.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Macnaghten 615

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, line 2, after the word 'advances' to insert the words 'provided that in case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts a vendor shall be entitled to pay off any charge or incumbrance thereon, notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or other instrument to the contrary.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 616

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Macnaghten 616

Amendment moved—

"To insert after the last Amendment the words: 'Provided also that this sub-section shall not apply in any case where the Land Commission are satisfied that it is not owing to any act or default of such person that his title is not established, and the amount of his claim invested as aforesaid.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Donoughmore 616

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, after line 12, to insert the following new sub-section: '(4) Notwithstanding anything in this section any vendor or incumbrancer may apply to the Court to invest the purchase money, pending distribution, in any of the securities from time to time authorised by law for the investment of trust funds.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 617
Lord Macnaghten 617

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Macnaghten 618

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 3, after the word 'section,' to insert as a new sub-section: '(4) In the case of all proceedings in relation to any lands sold under the Land Purchase Acts, or any charges thereon, or any moneys realised thereby, if it appears to the Court that a trustee

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is or may be personally liable for any breach of trust, whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the passing of this Act, but has acted honestly and reasonably, and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust, and for omitting to obtain the directions of the Court in the matter in which he committed such breach, then the Court may relieve the trustee, either wholly or partly, from personal liability for the same.' "—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 619

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Clonbrock 619

Amendments moved—

"In page 27, line 36, after the word 'by' to insert the words, 'the Land Judge, or'; in line 41, after the words 'apply to' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or.'"

"In page 28, line 1, after the word 'and' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or'; in line 3, after the word 'to' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or'; in line 5, after the word 'and' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or'; in line 8, after the word 'section' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or.' "—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 620

Amendments, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 55 to insert the following clause: 'The word "estate" in Section 5 of the Act of 1881 shall include such lands of a landlord as are retained by him or re-purchased upon any sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts, including this Act, and the Land Commission may authorise a resumption under the said section, notwithstanding that the holding in respect of which such resumption is authorised is held at a judicial rent fixed for a first or subsequent statutory term.' "—(*Lord Inchiquin.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Donoughmore 620

Amendment moved—

"In page 32, line 15, after the word 'matter' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(6) In the cases of sales to tenants other than sales by the Land Commission or sales by the Land Judge, the date of which interest on the purchase money payable under Sub-section 2 of Section 35 of the Act of 1896 shall begin to be payable shall be—(*a*) If the agreement for purchase be made on any first day of May or first day of November from the date of such agreement; (*b*) In all other cases from a date to be specified in the agreement, and not being earlier than the gale day immediately preceding the date of agreement; and such interest shall be dealt with according to the terms of the said sub-section.' "—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

Lord Castletown 621
The Earl of Belmore 622
The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 622

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

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Amendment moved—

"In page 34, line 38, after the word 'Commissioner' to insert as a new sub-section: '(8) In all cases in which the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues are parties to any proceedings in the High Court or the Land Commission, the Court or Judge shall have power to award costs to or against said Commissioners.'"—(*The Earl of Drogheda.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Oranmore and Browne 623

Amendment moved—

"In page 36, line 29, after the word 'deposit,' to insert as a new Sub-section: '(3) The powers and provisoes for the redemption or satisfaction of superior interests conferred by Section 31 of the Act of 1896 shall be varied or extended so as to enable the owner to satisfy a terminable charge by investing a capital sum in investments authorised pursuant to this Act, the interest on which will be sufficient to pay the charge, and thereupon the balance of the purchase money shall be discharged from any lien in respect of such superior interest, and upon the termination of the charge the said capital sum so invested shall revert to the person or persons to whom the benefit of the succession would have accrued on the termination of the terminable charge had the estate not been sold.'"—(*Lord Oranmore and Browne.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 624

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 42, line 23, after the word 'rehearings' to insert the words 'and those rules shall among other things provide for an *ad valorem* scale of fees to be paid on notices of appeal or re-hearing.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Monteagle of Brandon 625

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 94 to insert the following clause—'Where any agricultural labourer has made, or concurred in the making of, a representation under the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and within twelve months thereafter is dismissed from his employment, he may apply to the County Court Judge for compensation on the ground that he has been dismissed by reason of his having made, or concurred in making the representation, and if in the opinion of the County Court Judge he was dismissed for the reason aforesaid, the County Court Judge may award him compensation not exceeding three months' wages.'"—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

Lord Inchiquin 626
Lord Castletown 626
The Duke of Abercorn 628
The Earl of Westmeath 628
The Earl of Belmore... 629
The Earl of Meath 629
The Marquess of Lansdowne 630
The Earl of Camperdown 630

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On Question, "That the clause be inserted "their Lordships divided:—Contents, 63; Not-Contents, 62.

Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow, and to be printed as amended. (No. 209.)

Naval Works Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived.

[THIRD READING.]—Order of the day for Third Reading read.

Earl Spencer 633
The First Lord of the Admiralty (*The Earl of Selborne*) 636

Standing Order No. 39 having been suspended, Bill read 3^a and passed.

Post Office Sites Bill.—Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed 639

Employment of Children Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order).

Title agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Lord Bishop of Rochester 639

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 7, to leave out the words '(2) the local authority in making by-laws under this Section shall have special regard to the desirability of preventing the employment of girls under sixteen in streets or public places.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Rochester.*)

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 644
The Earl of Meath 645
Earl Spencer 646
Lord Belper 647

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

The DUKE of NORTHUMBERLAND, who had an Amendment on the Paper, said he understood his proposal was covered by the Amendment standing in the name of Lord Newton, and therefore he did not propose to move it.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clauses 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 agreed to.

Clause 13.

The Duke of Northumberland 651

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 16, to leave out from the word 'profit' to the word 'shoe-blacking.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

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The Earl of Meath 651
Lord Belper 652

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived: The Report of the Amendment to be received to-morrow.

Ireland Development Grant Bill.—Read 3^{a} (according to Order), and passed 652

County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill—[THIRD READING].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Lord James of Hereford 653
The Lord Chancellor 653

Bill read 3_{a} (according to Order), with the Amendments: Further Amendment (Privilege) made: Bill passed and returned to the Commons.

Merchant Shipping Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1900, was presented by the Lord Wolverton; read 1^{a}; and to be printed. (No. 210.) 653

House adjourned at half-past Eleven o'clock, till To-morrow, two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 10TH AUGUST, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Dover Corporation Bill; Hainault Forest Bill; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 653

Bangor Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 654

Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [LORDS] (King's Consent signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 654

Mid-Yorkshire Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 654

North Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [LORDS] (by Order).—Read the third time, and passed with Amendments 654

AUCHTERARDER TOWN COUNCIL ORDER CONFIRMATION.—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Burgh of Auchterarder, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Burgh of Auchterarder," presented accordingly; and ordered to be considered to-morrow 654

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PETITIONS.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (No. 2) BILL.—Petition from Kensington, in favour; to lie upon the Table 654

MOTOR-CARS BILL [LORDS].—Petitions from Chiswick, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 654

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Kettering, and Enfield Highway; to lie upon the Table 654

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—Copy presented, of Statistics of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 655

COAL SUPPLIES (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of First Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of the Coal Resources of the United Kingdom. Vol. I., Report. Vol. II., Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. Vol. III., Supplement [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 655

ADVERTISEMENTS (FOREIGN COUNTRIES).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 9th March; *Mr. Bryce*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 323.] 655

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Report for the year 1903 by Sir Henry Craik, K.C.B. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table... 655

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.—Copy presented, of Order of the Local Government Board for Scotland constituting the Local Authority of the Burgh of Glasgow, the Port Local Authority of the Port of Glasgow [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 655

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (UNITED KINGDOM).—Copy presented, of Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1888 to 1902, Fiftieth Number [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 655

COLONIAL STATISTICS.—Copy presented, of Statistical Tables relating to the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom. Part XXVI. for the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 655

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (COLONIES).—Copy presented, of Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1888 to 1902, Fortieth Number [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 655

TRAMWAYS AND LIGHT RAILWAYS (STREET AND ROAD).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th July; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 324.] 656

HARBOUR AUTHORITIES.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th August, 1901; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 325.] 656

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1902.—Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to the proposed publication of the Report of the Proceedings of the Colonial Conference in London in 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 656

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).—Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the months of March and April, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 656

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Copy presented, of licence granted to Michael Connell, a convict, permitting him to be at large, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of the Penal Servitude Act, 1864 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 656

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 595 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 656

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3056 and 3057 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 656

PENAL SERVITUDE BILL.—Copy ordered, "of Memorandum explanatory of the provisions of the Penal Servitude Bill."—(*Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed [No. 326.] 656

ASSESSMENTS (COUNTIES, CITIES, AND BURGHS) (SCOTLAND).—Return ordered, "showing the total amounts of assessments collected by County Councils and by councils of cities and burghs in Scotland for the year ended the 15th day of May, 1902, with the total cost of collection, and the cost of collection per cent., of assessments in each county, city, and burgh.—(*Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell.*) 657

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New Writ for the County of Argyll, in the room of Donald Ninian Nicol, esquire, deceased.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*) 689

NEW BILL.

Penal Servitude Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Penal Servitude in England and Wales," presented by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas; supported by Mr. Cochrane; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. (Bill 318.) 689

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY.)—Ordered, That on this day, notwithstanding anything in Standing Order 15, Business other than Business of Supply may be taken before Midnight, and Proceedings on Report of Supply may be taken after Midnight."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) 689

SUPPLY [23RD ALLOTTED DAY] [6TH AUGUST, EVENING SITTING].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—CLASS I.

"That a sum, not exceeding £321,697, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expenses of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."

CLASS I.

"That a sum, not exceeding £133,342, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following services included in Class I. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
13. Public Works and Buildings, Ireland - -	106,128
14. Railways, Ireland - - - - - -	27,214
	£133,342"

... 689

CLASS II.

"That a sum, not exceeding £366,072, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class II. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
1. House of Lords Offices - - - -	4,507
2. House of Commons Offices - - -	16,820
5. Foreign Office - - - - - -	34,887
7. Privy Council Office - - - - -	5,130
9. Mercantile Marine Services - - -	68,860
13. Civil Service Commission - - -	25,393
14. Exchequer and Audit - - - - -	38,321
15. Friendly Societies Registry - - -	4,581
21. Public Works Loan Commission - -	13
22. Registrar-General's Office - - -	22,942
25. Works and Public Buildings Office - -	37,200
26. Secret Service - - - - - -	25,000
SCOTLAND.	
27. Secretary for Scotland's Office - -	9,985
28. Fishery Board - - - - - -	10,837
29. Lunacy Commission - - - - -	3,162
30. Registrar-General's Office - - -	3,145
31. Local Government Board - - -	9,157
IRELAND.	
32. Lord Lieutenant's Household - -	2,817
35. Charitable Donations and Bequests -	997
37. Public Record Office - - - - -	3,348
38. Public Works Office - - - - -	20,053
39. Registrar-General's Office - - -	6,894
40. Valuation and Boundary Survey - -	12,023
	£366,072"

CLASS III.

"That a sum, not exceeding £1,402,874, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of the following Services included in Class III. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
1. Law Charges	38,984
2. Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	22,489
SCOTLAND.	
10. Law Charges and Courts of Law	52,405
11. Register House, Edinburgh	27,053
12. Crofters' Commission	2,790
13. Prisons	50,840
IRELAND.	
14. Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	33,600
15. Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland	57,805
16. Land Commission	76,740
17. County Court Officers, &c.	66,527
18. Dublin Metropolitan Police	55,468
19. Royal Irish Constabulary	792,002
20. Prisons	68,508
21. Reformatory and Industrial Schools	54,099
22. Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,564
	£1,402,874"

CLASS IV.

"That a sum, not exceeding £854,228, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of the following Services, included in Clause IV. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£
6. Scientific Investigation, &c. (United Kingdom)	45,000
8. Public Education (Scotland)	808,828
9. National Gallery (Scotland)	400
	£854,228"

CLASS V.

"That a sum, not exceeding £1,236,998, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following services included in Class V. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£
1. Diplomatic and Consular Services	284,780
2. British Protectorates in Uganda	445,593
3. Colonial Services	361,525
4. Cyprus (Grant-in Aid)	2,000
5. Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable	40,100
6. Treasury Chest Fund	103,000
	£1,236,998"

Resolutions read a second time.

First five Resolutions postponed.

Sixth Resolution considered.

Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 693
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 695
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 697

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£1,236,998' and insert £1,235,998.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That £1,236,998 stand part of the Resolution."

Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University) 703
Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) 707
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 708
Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth) 710
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) 710
Mr. Moon (St. Pancras, N.) 712
Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.) 713
Mr. A. J. Balfour 715
Mr. Pierpoint (Warrington) 720
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 723

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution agreed to.

Class VI.

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £393,521, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following services included in Class VI. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£
1. Superannuation and Retired Allowances (including a Supplementary sum of £4,000) -	342,914
2. Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions - -	1,000
3. Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances - - - - - -	646
4. Hospitals and Charities, Ireland - - -	342
5. Savings Banks' and Friendly Societies' Deficiencies - - - - - -	48,619
	£393,521"

Class VII.

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £61,082, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class VII. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£
4. St. Louis Exhibition - - - - -	50,000
5. Repayment to the Civil Contingencies Fund	11,082
	£61,082"

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903–4.

"That a sum, not exceeding £783,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for expenditure on the following Army Services, including Army (Ordnance Factories), viz.:—

	£
11. Establishments for Military Education -	134,500
12. Miscellaneous Effective Services - - -	62,000
13. War Office, Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges - - - - - -	331,500
Army (Ordnance Factories) - - -	255,000
	£783,000"

Resolutions read a second time.

Seventh and Eighth Resolutions postponed.

Ninth Resolution considered.

Mr. Crooks (*Woolwich*) 728

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£783,000,' and insert '£782,000.'"—(*Mr. Crooks.*)

Question proposed, "That '£783,000' stand part of the Resolution."

Mr. Reginald Lucas (*Portsmouth*) 732
Sir Charles Dilke 732
The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford*) ... 733
Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield, Central*) 736
Mr. Weir 737
Mr. Arthur Lee (*Hampshire, Fareham*) 737
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (*Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton*) 738
Mr. Broadhurst (*Leicester*) 739
Colonel Nolan (*Galway, N.*) 740
Mr. Shackleton (*Lancashire, Clitheroe*) 742

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 146; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 250.)

Resolution agreed to.

First Resolution considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 744
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Elliot, Durham*) 749

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, further Consideration of the Postponed Resolutions stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [23RD ALLOTTED DAY] [6TH AUGUST, EVENING SITTING] REPORT.

Order read for further Consideration of Postponed Resolutions.

Sir Albert Rollit 750
Mr. Elliot 750

Page
Mr Gordon (Londonderry, S.) 751
Mr. Elliot 752
Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.) 752

Resolution agreed to.

Second Resolution agreed to.

Third Resolution considered.

Mr. Weir 752

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£366,072,' and insert '£365,972.'"—(*Mr. Weir.*)

Question proposed, "That £366,072 stand part of the said Resolution."

Sir Charles Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.) 753
Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 754

And, it being Ten of the Clock, Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order 15, put forthwith the Question necessary to dispose of the Resolution then under consideration.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 158; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 251.)

Resolution agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER then proceeded, in pursuance of Standing Order 15, to put forthwith the Questions, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the out-standing Resolutions reported in respect of each Class of the Civil Services Estimates, the Navy Estimates, and the Army Estimates.

CLASS II.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class II. of the Civil Services Estimates."

The House divided:—Ayes, 162; Noes, 60. (Division List No. 252.)

CLASS III.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class III. of the Civil Services Estimates."

The House divided:—Ayes, 165; Noes, 59. (Division List No. 253.)

CLASS IV.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class IV. of the Civil Services Estimates."

The House divided:—Ayes, 168, Noes, 59. (Division List No. 254.)

CLASS VI.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class VI. of the Civil Services Estimates."

The House divided:—Ayes, 169; Noes, 60. (Division List No. 255.)

CLASS VII.

Outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class VII. of the Civil Services Estimates, agreed to.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—Outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of the Navy Estimates, agreed to.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—Outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of the Army Estimates, agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS [6TH AUGUST].—Resolutions reported.

1. "That, towards making good the Supply to be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, the sum of £100 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."
2. "That, towards making good the Supply to be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, the sum of £75,392,969 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

Resolutions read a second time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the First Resolution.

The House divided :—Ayes, 167 ; Noes, 60. (Division List No. 256.)

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Second Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 163 ; Noes, 59. (Division List No. 257.)

Bill ordered to be brought in by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Arthur Elliot.

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill.—"To apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and two and one thousand nine hundred and four, and to appropriate the supplies granted in this session of Parliament," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time to-morrow.

Public Buildings Expenses Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.) 772
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 773
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 774
Mr. Victor Cavendish (Derbyshire, W.) 774
Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston) 774

Bill reported without Amendment ; to be read the third time to-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Addenbrooke's Hospital Bill; Poor Law (Dissolution of School Districts and Adjustments) Bill, without Amendment; Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill; Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill; County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill; Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill, with Amendments.

That they do not insist on their Amendment to—Wood Green Urban District Council Bill, to which this House have disagreed.

That they have agreed to—Amendments to Brighton Corporation Bill [Lords], without Amendment 775

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Schedule.

Mr. James O'Connor (*Wicklow, W.*) 775

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, to leave out lines 25 and 26."—(*Mr. James O'Connor.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 776
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 777
Mr. Joseph Devlin (*Kilkenny, N.*) 777
Mr. MacVeagh (*Down, S.*) 778
Mr. James O'Connor 778
Mr. Charles Devlin (*Galway*) 779
Mr. Doogan (*Tyrone, E.*) 779
Mr. Murphy (*Kerry, E.*) 780

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 121; Noes, 38. (Division List No. 258.)

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time to-morrow.

London Education Bill.

Lords Amendments considered.

Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 781
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Sir William Anson, Oxford University*) 781

Lords Amendments agreed to.

Sheep Scab Bill—[THIRD READING].—Order for the Third Reading read.

Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 782
Mr. Spear (*Devonshire, Tavistock*)... 782
Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes (*Huntingdonshire, Ramsey*)... 783
Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 783

Bill read the third time, and passed.

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Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 783
Mr. Austin Taylor (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) 784
The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 784
Mr. William Jones (*Carnarvonshire, Arfon*) 785
Mr. Walter Long 785

Schedule amended.

Bill reported, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

Revenue Bill.—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [30th July], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Debate resumed.

Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 785
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*)... 786
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Ritchie, Croydon*) 786

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Bill [LORDS].—Order for Third Reading read, and discharged.

Bill recommitted to a Committee of the whole House in respect of Clause 1.

Bill considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 787

Isle of Man Customs Bill—[THIRD READING].—Order for the Third Reading read.

Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 788
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 788
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Ritchie, Croydon*) 788

Bill read the third time and passed.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : TUESDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 1903.

COMMISSION.—The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

1. Borough Funds.
2. Local Government (Transfer of Powers).
3. Metropolitan Streets.
4. Public Offices (Dublin).
5. Pistols.
6. Poor Law (Dissolution of School Districts and Adjustments).
7. Patriotic Fund.
8. Sugar Convention.
9. Naval Works.
10. Ireland Development Grant.
11. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2).
12. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3).
13. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4).
14. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5)
15. Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1).
16. Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2).
17. Water Orders Confirmation.
18. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).
19. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8).
20. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13).
21. Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order.
22. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).
23. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5).
24. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7).
25. Perth Corporation (Tramways) Order Confirmation.
26. Aberdeen Corporation (Tramways) Order Confirmation.
27. Metropolitan Police Provisional Order.
28. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1).
29. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2).
30. Irvine and District Water Board Order Confirmation.
31. Rothesay Corporation Order Confirmation.
32. Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund Order Confirmation.
33. Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London).
34. Gas and Water Orders Confirmation.
35. Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation.
36. Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation.
37. Wick and Pulteney Harbours Order Confirmation.
38. Addenbrooke's Hospital.
39. Post Office Sites.
40. Scottish American Mortgage Company, Limited.
41. South Lancashire Tramways.
42. Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway.
43. Great Southern and Western Railway.
44. St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street).
45. Baker Street and Waterloo Railway.
46. Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland.
47. Walker and Wallsend Union Gas.
48. Blackheath and Greenwich District Electric Light.
49. Derby Gas.
50. Dudley, Stourbridge and District Tramways.
51. Poole and District Electric Traction.
52. Tynemouth and District Tramways.
53. Middlesbrough Corporation.
54. Taff Vale Railway.
55. Sutton Coldfield Corporation.
56. City and South London Railway.

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57. Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply.
58. Romford and District Tramways.
59. Wigan Corporation Tramways.
60. Woolwich Borough Council.
61. Bournemouth Corporation Tramways.
62. Alexandra Park and Palace.
63. Chatham and District Light Railways.
64. Willesden Urban District Council.
65. Exeter Corporation.
66. Barry Railway.
67. Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways.
68. Worthing Corporation Tramways.
69. Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (Various Powers).
70. London County Council (General Powers).
71. London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway.
72. Watford and Edgware Railway.
73. Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways.
74. London United Tramways.
75. Birmingham Corporation.
76. Manchester Southern Tramways.
77. Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time).
78. Gosport and Fareham Tramways.
79. Great Western Railway.
80. Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railways (Steam Vessels).
81. Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway.
82. Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity.
83. Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements.
84. Kip's Patents.
85. Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways.
86. West Bromwich Corporation.
87. Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways.
88. South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways.
89. Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company.
90. Bath Corporation Water.
91. Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway.
92. Bournemouth Gas and Water.
93. Carmarthenshire Electric Power.
94. Bristol Corporation.
95. Maryport Harbour.
96. Manchester Corporation.
97. Somerset and District Electric Power.
98. Birmingham District Tramways.
99. Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time).
100. Beckenham Urban District Council.
101. London County Council (Money).
102. London County Council (Tramways and Improvements).
103. Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway.
104. Fife Electric Power.
105. South Shields Corporation.
106. East Ham Improvement.
107. Wood Green Urban District Council.
108. Brighton Corporation.
109. Lochnell Estate.
110. Pentillie Estate 789

SAT FIRST.

The Marquess Townshend—Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father 792

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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Liverpool University Bill [H.L.]; Bradford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Salford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [H.L.].—Commons Amendments considered and agreed to 792

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments and passed, and returned to the Commons 792

Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [H.L]; Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; North-Western Electricity and Power Gas Bill [H.L.]; Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 792

Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; South-Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 792

Gateshead Corporation Bill; Stroud and District Tramways Bill; Cork Harbour Bill; Ebbw Vale Improvement Bill; Erith Tramways and Improvement Bill; Great Central Railway Bill; North-Eastern Railway Bill; Sheffield Corporation Bill; South Yorkshire Joint Railways Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill; Dover Corporation Bill; Hainault Forest Bill; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill; Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to 792

Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Order Confirmation Bill; Lerwick Harbour Improvements Act, 1877, Amendment Order Confirmation Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 792

PETITIONS.

HIS HIGHNESS MAHENDRA MAHARAZA MADHAVA SINGH.—Petition for redress of grievances of; of Inhabitants of Cambridge; Westminster; London; and other towns in England; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ... 793

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRAMWAYS ACT, 1870.—Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Act, during the session of 1903 793

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the six months ending 30th June, 1903, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1871; together with the reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade, upon certain accidents which were inquired into 793

FOREIGN IMPORT DUTIES.—Statement of the rates of import duties levied in European countries, in the United States, in Japan, and in China, upon the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom 793

GAS AND WATER ORDERS.—Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, during the session of 1903 793

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RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).—Return, in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of railway servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions during the month of December, 1902, on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours at a time, or who, after being on duty more than twelve hours, were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours rest ... 793

RUSSIA, No. 1. (1903).—Despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa forwarding a Report on the riots at Kishiniev 794

ALIEN IMMIGRATION (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of alien immigration; with minutes of evidence and appendix. Vol. I. Report 794

SUPERANNUATION (CIVIL SERVICE) (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of superannuation in the Civil Service; with minutes of evidence, appendices, and index 794

PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND).—Seventy-first Annual Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with appendices, for the year ended 31st March, 1903 794

INDIA (AGRICULTURAL BANKS).—Report of the Committee on the establishment of co-operative credit societies in India 794

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—I. Return showing the number of persons whose names have been placed upon the Teachers' Register under Regulation 5 (2) (*a*) of the Teachers' Registration Regulations, and the qualifications of each one so registered which, in the opinion of the Council has qualified the person to be so registered.

II. Statement of schemes for the formation of education committees, approved during the month of July, 1903, by the Board of Education, under Section 17 of the Education Act of 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Papers (Command Nos. 1564, 1613, 1659, and 1675) of Session 1903) showing—Name of local authority; name of the council; number of members on the education committee; number of members on the education committee who are necessarily members of the council; number of women who are necessarily on the education committee; forms of educational experience to be represented on the committee; recommendations or nominations (if any) 794

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND), 1902.—Part I. Criminal Statistics—Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie upon the Table 795

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PURCHASE OF LAND (IRELAND) ACT, 1891).—Return of advances under the Act during the year ended the 31st March, 1903 ... 795

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).—Report by the Board of Trade respecting their proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, 56 & 57 Vict. c. 29, during the year ended 27th July, 1903 795

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Report by the Board of Trade on their proceedings and business under the Weights and Measures Acts 795

GAS COMPANIES (METROPOLIS).—Accounts of the Metropolitan Gas Companies for the year 1902 795

PAWNBROKERS RETURNS (IRELAND).—Returns from the City Marshal of Dublin, for the year 1902. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie upon the Table 795

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SUPERANNUATION.—Return of the total nnmber of law clerks serving in the several divisions of the High Court, giving the number, ages, salaries, and length of service of such clerks as are over the age of 60. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of the 23rd of July last), and to be printed. (No. 211.) 795

London Education Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with Amendments agreed to.

Motor-Cars Bill [H.L.].

The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) 795
The Marquess of Ripon 796

Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 796

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

The Earl of Camperdown 798

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Town Councils (Scotland) Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 799

Moved "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Railways (Electric Power) Bill; South African Loan and War Contribution Bill; Military Works Bill; Public Works Loans Bill.—Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow... 799

Marriages Legalisation Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Belper 800

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Belper.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order): Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith: House in Committee accordingly: Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived: Bill read 3^a, and passed.

Irish Land Bill—[THIRD READING].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^a."—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

The Earl of Dunraven 800
The Earl of Wemyss 802
The Lord President of the Council (The Duke of Devonshire) 805
Lord Muskerry 808
The Duke of Abercorn 811

On Question, Bill read 3^a.

Lord Macnaghten 812

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 31, after the word 'Commission,' to insert the words, 'unless he thinks it inequitable under the circumstances that the estate should be dealt with under this section.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 812

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, after line 24, after the word 'money' to insert as a new sub-section the words '(6) For the purpose of giving effect to this enactment, the Land Commission may, if they think fit, in the case of a terminable charge, satisfy the same by the investment in any securities in which trustees are by law authorised to invest trust money of a capital sum, the annual income of which will be sufficient to satisfy the annual amount of the charge.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

The Earl of Westmeath 813
The Duke of Devonshire 813

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Arran... 813

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, line 20, to leave out the words 'out of the purchase money or otherwise,' and to insert the words 'out of the purchase money, or recoverable under any agreement or covenant.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, line 22, after the word 'advances' to insert the words 'Provided that, in case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts, any charge or incumbrance thereon may be paid off notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or instrument to the contrary.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 27, after the word 'in' to insert the words '(*a.*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon rates or taxes levied under the authority of any Act of Parliament or Provisional Order by any municipal corporation or other local authority in the United Kingdom which shall be authorised to borrow on such security; (*b.*) Ground rents arising out of hereditaments in the United Kingdom and not exceeding in amount one-fourth part of the annual value at a rack rent of the premises out of which such ground rents issue; (*c.*) Debentures or mortgages of railway companies in the United Kingdom incorporated by Act of Parliament; (*d.*) Stocks or shares of any tramway or light railway interest upon which is guaranteed from or charged upon rates under the Tramways (Ireland) Acts; (*e.*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon any investments in which trustees are authorised by this or any other Act to invest trust funds; (*f.*) Debentures or fully-paid shares or stocks of any railway, provided that the sufficiency of any such investments to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust shall be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustees under this Act.' "—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 815

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, line 15, after the word 'matter,' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(6) In the cases of sales to tenants other than sales by the Land Commission or sales by the Land Judge, the date at which interest on the purchase money payable under Sub-section 2 of Section 35 of the Act of 1896 shall begin to be payable shall be (*a.*) If the agreement for purchase be made on any first day of May or first day of November from the date of such agreement; (*b.*) In all other cases from a date to be specified in the agreement, and not being earlier than the gale day immediately preceding the date of agreement; and such interest shall be dealt with according to the terms of the said sub-section.' "—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 815

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Castletown 816

Amendment moved—

"In page 42, line 33, after the second word 'Commissioner' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) For the purpose of assisting the County Court Judge in determining any question under the Land Law Acts relating to a holding, the Land Commission shall assign to each Civil Bill Court a Lay Assistant Commissioner, who shall inspect the holding, sit with, and assist the County Court Judge as a Lay Assessor.' "—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland 816

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Camperdown 817

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 95, which was inserted on Report on Motion of Lord Monteagle of Brandon."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Morley*) 819
Lord Inchiquin 819
The Earl of Meath 820
Viscount Goschen 820
The Earl of Dunraven 820
Lord Castletown 820
Lord Macnaghten 821
The Earl of Donoughmore 822
Lord Monteagle of Brandon 823
The Duke of Devonshire 823
The Earl of Camperdown 825

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

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Lord Castletown 825

Amendment moved—

"In page 45, line 17, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'and shall include any holdings on an estate which before the date upon which this Act comes into operation had been the subject matter of proceedings for sale under the Land Purchase Acts, but as to which holdings the sales had not either been agreed upon or carried out.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Duke of Devonshire 826

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Employment of Children Bill.

Report of Amendments received 826

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 826

Amendments moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, line 6, to leave out from the word 'trade' to the end of the clause."

"After Clause 3, insert as a new clause: 'A girl under the age of sixteen years shall not be employed in street tradings, except under the provisions of specific by-law of the local authority sanctioning such employment.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

Lord Belper 827
Earl Spencer 830
The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 830
The Lord Bishop of Rochester 831

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 46; Not-Contents, 14.

Amendments moved—

"In Clause 14, page 6, line 23, after the word 'jurisdiction' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(3) Any fine or penalty under this Act shall be recoverable by imprisonment in terms of the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.' In line 27, after the word 'having' to insert the words 'within its boundary for police purposes.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 16, page 7, line 37, to leave out Sub-section 1."

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.—Second Report of the Select Committee considered (according to Order), and agreed to 833

Sheep Scab Bill.—Brought from the Commons. Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª To-morrow.—(*The Earl of Onslow.*) (No. 212.) 833

Isle of Man (Customs) Bill.—Brought from the Commons. Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª To-morrow.—(*The Lord President—D. Devonshire.*) (No. 213.) 834

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Bill [H.L.].—Commons Amendments considered (on Motion) and agreed to. 834

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went—and, being returned,

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills 834

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 834

South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [LORDS] [not amended], considered.

Ordered, that Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means*) ... 835

(King's Consent signified.) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 835

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [LORDS].—Ordered, That, in the case of the Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.

Bill, as amended, accordingly considered.

Ordered, that Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 835

Hastings Harbour Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed... 835

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Patriotic Fund Bill; Sugar Convention Bill; Naval Works Bill; Post Office Sites Bill; Ireland Development Grant Bill; without Amendment. Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill; Lerwick Harbour Improvements Act (1877) Amendment Order Confirmation Bill; without Amendment.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill; with an Amendment ... 836

Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway Bill (by Order).—Lords Amendments considered. Lords Amendment, in the Title, page 1, line 2, leave out "Railways," and insert "a Railway," the first Amendment, read a second time.

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Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment." Debate arising.

Mr. O'Doherty (*Donegal, N.*) 836
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 836

And it being after a quarter past Two of the Clock, the proceedings on consideration of the Lords Amendments were postponed, by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means, till this Evening's Sitting.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION ACT, 1902.—Petition from Loughborough, for repeal; to lie upon the Table 836

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRAMWAY ORDERS.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Tramways Act, 1870, during the session of 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table... 836

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the six months ending 30th June, 1903, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 837

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).—Copy presented, of Return, in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of Railway Servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions during the month of December, 1902, on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours at a time; or who, after being on duty more than twelve hours, were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours' rest [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 837

FOREIGN IMPORT DUTIES.—Copy presented, of Statement of the Rates of Import Duties levied in European countries, in the United States, in Japan, and in China, upon the Produce and Manufactures of the United Kingdom [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 837

GAS AND WATER ORDERS.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under The Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, during the session of 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 837

EXPORTS (WOOLLEN AND COTTON GOODS AND CUTLERY).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd July; *Colonel Denny*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 327.] 837

TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA, AND GERMANY.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th June; *Mr. Loder*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 328.] 837

PREFERENTIAL TRADE.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd July; *Sir Edgar Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 329.] 838

GAS UNDERTAKINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st May; *Mr Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 330.] 838

GAS UNDERTAKINGS.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st May; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 331.] ... 838

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GAS COMPANIES (METROPOLIS).—Copy presented, of Accounts of the Metropolitan Gas Companies for the year 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 332.] 838

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 333.] 838

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade on their Proceedings and Business under the Weights and Measures Acts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 334.] 838

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Report for the year 1902 on the Museums, Colleges, and Institutions under the administration of the Board of Education [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 838

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of General Reports on Higher Education, with Appendices, for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 838

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Return showing the Number of Persons on the Teachers' Register under Regulation 52 (a) of the Teachers' Registration Regulations, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 838

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Statement of Schemes for the Formation of Education Committees, approved by the Board of Education, during the month of July, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 839

ALIEN IMMIGRATION ROYAL COMMISSION.—Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of Alien Immigration, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. Vol I. Report [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 839

SUPERANNUATION (CIVIL SERVICE) (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of Superannuation in the Civil Service, with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 839

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of Ireland for the year 1902. Part I. Criminal Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 839

PAWNBROKERS' RETURNS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Returns from the City Marshal of Dublin for the year ended 31st December, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 839

PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Seventy-first Annual Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with Appendices, for the year ending 31st March, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 839

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PURCHASE OF LAND (IRELAND) ACT, 1891).—Copy presented, of Return of Advances under the Act during the year ended 31st March, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 335.] 839

RUSSIA (No. 1, 1903).—Copy presented, of Despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa, forwarding a Report on the riots at Kishiniev [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 840

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TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3052 to 3055 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 840

EAST INDIA (AGRICULTURAL BANKS).—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee on the Establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies in India [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 840

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (LONDON).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August, 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 336.] 840

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE FROM WALMER MARINE BARRACKS. — Question, Mr. Harwood (Bolton); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 840

PRIZE FIRING ON H.M.S. "HIGHFLYER."—Question, Mr. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 841

LONG RANGE FIRING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN FLEET.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 841

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE IRISH INLAND REVENUE OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 842

POSTAL ORDER BUSINESS IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 842

DECENTRALISATION OF THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 843

BRITISH CEMETERY AT CORFU.—Question, Major Seely (Isle of Wight); Answer, Lord Cranborne 844

DISTURBANCES AT KISHINIEV.—REPORT OF CONSUL-GENERAL AT ODESSA.—Question, Mr. Stuart Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel); Answer, Lord Cranborne 844

NEW RUSSO-GERMAN COMMERCIAL TREATY—TRUSTS AND SYNDICATES.—Question, Mr. David Morgan (Essex, Walthamstow); Answer, Lord Cranborne 845

POST OFFICE AND WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 845

POSTAL FACILITIES AT RHOSNEIGR.—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 845

INDIA—BERARS SURPLUS REVENUE.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 846

CHARGES ON INDIAN REVENUE FOR MILITARY WORKS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 846

CHARGE ON INDIAN REVENUE FOR DELHI DURBAR.—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 847

INCREASE OF BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Buchanan; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 847

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.—Question, Sir Charles Cayzer (Barrow-in-Furness); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 848

SAFETY OF HANSOM CABS.—Question, Sir Charles Cayzer; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 849

REMUNERATION OF WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL CASES.—Question, Mr. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercromby); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 849

LEAD POISONING RULES—FINAL AWARD.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 850

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF POOR RELIEF ACT.—Question, Lord Edmund Talbot (Sussex, Chichester); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 850

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM—EXHIBITION OF COLLECTIONS.—Question, Sir Francis Powell (Wigan); Answer, Sir William Anson 851

COVERING OVER SHRINE IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—Question, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 851

EVICTIONS IN COUNTY CARLOW.—Question, Mr. Hammond (Carlow); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 851

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS' PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 852

REPORT OF COMMISSION OF DYSENTERY.—Question, Sir Michael Foster (London University); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 852

PORTHCAWL RIFLE RANGE.—Question, Mr. Fuller (Wiltshire, Westbury); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 852

SEPTEMBER ARMY MANŒUVRES—COST.—Question, Mr. Fuller; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 853

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HONORARY RANK FOR VOLUNTEER OFFICERS—RIGHT TO WEAR THE UNIFORM.—Question, Mr. Shaw (Stafford); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 853

GRANTS TO MILITIA REGIMENTS FOR BANDS.—Question, Dr. Thompson; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 854

BUSBIES FOR MILITIA FUSILIER REGIMENTS.—Question, Dr. Thompson; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 854

RIGHTS OF DISCHARGED NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS TO WEAR UNIFORM.—Question, Mr. Moss (Denbighshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 854

DEPORTATION OF BRITISH SUBJECTS ON THE ISLAND OF TRISTAN D'ACUNHA.—Question, Mr. Fuller; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 855

CONTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL—AMOUNT AUDITED—COST OF AUDITING IRISH PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot 855

MONEY EXPENDED ON MUSEUMS, ART GALLERIES, ETC., IN SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.—Question, Mr. J. H. Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Elliot 856

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QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

ILLEGAL ARREST FOR DESERTION—POTTER'S CASE.—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 856

ARMY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS.—Question, Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham); Answer, Lord Stanley 857

LIBERIAN WRECKERS.—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 858

CATTLE SHIPMENTS FROM BOSTON.—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur; Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey) 858

BOARD OF EDUCATION—CONSULTING ARCHITECT.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 859

DONEGAL MAGISTRACY.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 860

ST. JOHN'S POINT.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 860

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Questions, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 860

CORGLASS AND CONNAKELLY ESTATES.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 861

COUNTY LONGFORD MARKET TOLLS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 862

IRELAND—LABOURERS ACTS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 862

RATHCLINE (ANNUALLY) ESTATE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 863

BELFAST WATER SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin (Kilkenny, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 863

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Bousfield (Hackney, N.), Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.), Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean), and Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 863

LIGHT LOAD LINE.—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House a copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships on the Light Load Line, with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, etc.—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) 865

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Marriages Legalisation Bill; Irish Land Bill; Employment of Children Bill, with Amendments ... 865

Irish Land Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 322.] 865

Employment of Children Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 323.] 865

Military Lands Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 324.] 865

Irish Valuation Acts.—Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up, and read [Inquiry not completed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 337.] 865

NEW BILL.

Ecclesiastical Suits Bill.—"To repeal certain enactments and otherwise to amend the Law relating to Ecclesiastical Suits," presented by Lord Hugh Cecil; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 321.] 866

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—[Second Reading].—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Robson (South Shields) 866
Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 871
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 874
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 876
Lord Hugh Cecil (Greenwich) 878
Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.) 880
Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) 881
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) 884
The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 888
Mr. Mooney (Dublin County, S.) 890
The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) ... 891
Mr. J. P. Farrell 892
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Elliot, Durham) 894
Mr. Wylie (Dumbartonshire) 896
Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) 899
Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central) 901
Mr. Victor Cavendish (Derbyshire, W.) 901
Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory) 903
Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs) 903
The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) ... 904
The Solicitor-General for Ireland (Mr. James Campbell, Dublin University) 906

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

The Motor-Cars Bill [Lords].—As amended, further considered.

Clause (Suspension of licence and disqualification)—

"In page 3, after Clause 3, to insert the following clause: '(1) Any Court before whom a person is convicted of an offence under this Act, or of any offence in connection with the driving of a motor-car, other than a first offence, which consists solely of exceeding any limit of speed fixed under this Act—(*a*) may if the person convicted holds any licence under this Act, suspend that licence for such time as the Court thinks fit, and, if the Court thinks fit, also declare the person convicted disqualified for obtaining a licence for such further time after the expiration of the licence as the Court thinks fit; and (*b*) may, if the person convicted does not hold any licence under this Act, declare him disqualified for obtaining a licence for such time as the Court thinks fit; and (*c*) if the person convicted holds any licence under this Act, shall cause particulars of the conviction and of any order of the Court made under this section, to be endorsed upon any licence held by him, and shall also cause a copy of those particulars to be sent to the council by whom any licence so endorsed has been granted. (2) Any person so convicted, if he holds any licence under

this Act, shall produce the licence within a reasonable time, for the purposes of endorsement, and if he fails to do so shall be guilty of an offence under this Act. (3) A licence so suspended by the Court shall, during the term of suspension, be of no effect, and a person whose licence is suspended or who is declared by the Court to be disqualified for obtaining a licence shall during the period of suspension or disqualification be disqualified for obtaining a licence. (4) Any person who is by virtue of an order of the Court under this section disqualified for obtaining a licence may appeal against the order in the same manner as a person may appeal who is ordered to be imprisoned without the option of a fine; and the Court may, if they think fit, pending the appeal, defer the operation of the order. (5) If any person who under the provisions of this Act is disqualified for obtaining a licence, applies for or obtains a licence while he is so disqualified, or if any person whose licence has been endorsed applies for or obtains a licence without giving particulars of the endorsement, that person shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, and any licence so obtained shall be of no effect.—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Mr. Scott-Montagu (*Hampshire, New Forest*) 907

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the proposed clause, to add the words 'A licence shall not be taken away or suspended, or any person disqualified from taking a licence under this Act, except in consequence of a conviction for an offence under Section 1 of this Act, or for drunkenness, whilst in charge of a motor-car.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 908
Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 909
Mr. Walter Long 909
Mr. Spear (*Devonshire, Tavistock*)... 909

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3 of proposed clause, after the word 'first,' to leave out the words 'offence which consists,' and insert the words 'or second offence consisting.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

Clause (Power to prohibit Motor-cars on special roads).

"In page 4, after Clause 6, to insert the following clause: 'The Local Government Board may, by regulations made under Section 6 of the principal Act, prohibit or restrict the driving of any motor-cars, or of any special kind of motor-cars on any specified highway, or part of a highway, which does not exceed sixteen feet in width, or on which ordinary motor-car traffic would, in their opinion, be especially dangerous.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Clause (Regulations as to maximum weight of cars).

"In page 5, after Clause 9, to insert the following clause: '(1) The Local Government Board by regulations made under Section 6 of the principal Act may, as respects any class of vehicle mentioned in the regulations, increase the maximum weights of three tons and four tons mentioned in Section 1 of that Act subject to any conditions as to the use and construction of the vehicle which may be made by the regulations. (2) The power of the Local Government Board to make regulations under Section 6 of The Locomotives on Highways Act, 1896, shall, as respects motor-cars exceeding two tons in weight unladen, include a power to make regulations as to speed.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 911

Clause (Compensation for accidents resulting in child's death).

"From and after the passing of this Act, where the death of a minor is caused in England or Ireland by a light locomotive under circumstances which would amount to an offence against this Act, the father or mother of the child may recover damages against the owner of the light locomotive, although no direct pecuniary loss resulted from such death."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 911
The Attorney-General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 912
Mr. Broadhurst (*Leicester*) 913
Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 913
Mr. Hemphill (*Tyrone, N.*) 914
Mr. Scott-Montagu 915
Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 915
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 915
Mr. Burdett-Coutts (*Westminster*) 916
Mr. Seely (*Lincoln*) 916
Sir Robert Finlay 916
Mr. Bond (*Nottingham, E.*) 916

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 69; Noes, 123. (Division List No. 259.)

Clause (Cars at rest upon highways).

"Where the driver of a motor-car requires to visit any house or shop for the purpose of business or refreshment it shall be lawful for him so to do, provided the engine of the car has been stopped; but nothing herein contained shall relieve from any penalty for causing obstruction when the driver, after a reasonable interval, has been required by a constable, or the owner or occupier of any adjacent premises, to proceed."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Robert Finlay 919

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out Sub-section 2."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'constable,' to insert the words 'in uniform on duty.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir Robert Finlay 920
Mr. Griffith Boscawen (*Kent, Tunbridge*) 920
Mr. Walter Long 920
Mr. Scott-Montagu 920

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. Louis Sinclair (*Essex, Romford*) 921

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out the words 'who commits,' and to insert the words 'whom he sees commit.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'who commits' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 921

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 24, to leave out the words, 'and who,' and insert the words 'if he.'"

"In page 1, line 25, to leave out the word, 'whose,' and insert the words 'if the.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

———

EVENING SITTING.

Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway Bill [BY ORDER].

Lords Amendments further considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In the Title, page 1, line 2, to leave out the word 'railway,' and insert the words 'a railway.'"

The first Amendment, again read.

Question again proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

Mr. Mooney (Dublin Co., S.) 921
Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.) 922
Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.) 922
Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.) 923
Dr. MacDonnell (Queens Co., Leix) 923

Question put, and agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments agreed to.

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Ordered, That Standing Order 235 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a second time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read a second time, and committed 923

Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation Bill.—Considered; read the third time, and passed 923

Motor-Cars Bill [LORDS].—As amended, further considered.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 28, to leave out the word 'and' and insert the word 'or.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Louis Sinclair 924

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 29, after the word 'address' to insert the words 'to a police constable in uniform on duty.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 924

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, to leave out lines 15 to 24."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Walter Long 924

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 30, after the word 'that' to insert the words 'He has taken all steps reasonably practicable to prevent.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 30, to leave out the words 'had been,' and to insert the word 'being.'"

"In page 2, lines 31 and 32, to leave out the words 'by unavoidable causes arising from natural conditions over which he had no control.'"

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"In page 2, line 37, at end, to insert the words 'and (*b*) the Council of any County or County Borough in which the business premises of any manufacturer of or dealer in motor-cars are situated, may, on payment of such annual fee, not exceeding £3, as the Council require, assign to that manufacturer or dealer a general identification mark which may be used for any car on trial after completion, or on trial by an intending purchaser, and a person shall not be liable to a penalty under this section while so using the car if the mark so assigned is fixed upon the car in the manner required by the Council in accordance with regulations of the Local Government Board made under this Act.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Mr. Louis Sinclair 925

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, to leave out the words of line 2, and insert the words 'liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £5.' "—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 926

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Arthur Morton (*Deptford*) 926

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 16, to leave out the word 'sixteen' and insert the word 'seventeen.' "—(*Mr. Arthur Morton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'sixteen' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 926
Mr. Broadhurst 927
Mr. Dalziel... 927
Mr. Burdett-Coutts... 927
Mr. Scott-Montagu 928
Mr. J. A. Pease (*Essex, Saffron Walden*)... 928
Mr. Weir (*Ross and Cromarty*) 928
Mr. Llewellyn (*Somersetshire, N.*)... 929

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 79; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 260.)

Word "seventeen" there inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 17, after the word 'licence' to insert the words 'except that a licence limited to driving motor-cycles may be granted to a person over the age of fourteen years.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 25, to leave out the words 'or his horse or vehicle,' and insert the words 'whether on foot, on horseback, or in a vehicle, or to any horse or vehicle in charge of any person.' "

"In page 3, line 29, after the word 'liable' to insert the words 'on summary conviction.'"

"In page 3, line 30, to leave out the word 'each" and insert the words 'the first.'"

"In page 3, line 30, to leave out the words 'on summary conviction.'"

"In page 3, line 31, to leave out the words 'or in the case of a' and insert the words 'and in respect of the.'"

"In page 3, line 31, to leave out the word 'conviction' and insert the words 'offence to a fine.'"

"In page 3, line 33, to leave out the words 'shall be subject.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 33, after the word 'or' to insert the words 'in the discretion of the Court.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be be there inserted in the Bill."

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 2, to leave out the words 'and giving.'"—*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 3, after the word 'register' to insert 'and the giving of those particulars.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 28, to leave out the words 'provided that' and insert the words, 'but a person shall not under any circumstances drive a motor-car on a public highway at a speed exceeding twenty miles per hour, and.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question, "That the words 'provided that' stand part of the Bill," put, and negatived.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"To leave out the word 'and' and insert the words 'between sunrise and one hour after sunset, or at a speed exceeding twelve miles an hour from one hour after sunset until sunrise on the following day.'"—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'and' stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 932
Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) 933
Mr. William M'Arthur (Cornwall, St. Austell) 933
Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth)... 933
Sir Albert Rollit 933

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

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Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 32, at the end, to leave out the words 'the speed of any' and insert the words 'a person shall not drive a.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Dalziel 934

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at the end, to insert the words 'Provided always that the exact and measured rate of speed is produced.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir Robert Finlay 934
Lord Hugh Cecil (*Greenwich*) 935
Major Jameson 935
Mr. Scott-Montagu 935
Mr. Burdett-Coutts 936
Mr. William Redmond 936
Mr. Gordon (*Londonderry, S.*) 936
Sir Fortescue Flannery (*Yorkshire, Shipley*) 936

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at the end, to insert the words 'Provided always that a medical man driving a motor-car or cycle for the purpose of attending a patient in urgent need of his assistance, or a member of a fire brigade attending a fire, shall not be liable for exceeding the speed limits under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long 937
Sir Walter Foster 937

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at the end, to insert the words 'the fines under this Act shall not be accumulative within the space of twenty-four hours.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir Robert Finlay 938

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at end, to add the words 'but a person shall not be convicted under this provision for exceeding the limit of speed of twenty miles merely on the opinion of one witness as to the rate of speed.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at end, to insert the words '(2) Where a person is prosecuted for an offence under this section, he shall not be convicted unless he is warned of the intended prosecution at the time

the offence is committed, or unless notice of the intended prosecution is sent to him or to the owner of the car as entered on the register within such time after the offence is committed, not exceeding twenty-one days, as the Court think reasonable.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 39, to leave out Sub-section 2."

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 14, at beginning, to insert the words '(1) Local authorities within the meaning of the last preceding section shall give public notice of any regulation of the Local Government Board made in pursuance of this Act prohibiting or restricting the use of motor cars on any highway or part of a highway, or limiting the speed of motor-cars within any limits or place, and for the purpose of giving effect to any such regulation shall place notices in conspicuous places on or near the highway, part of a highway, limits, or place to which the regulation refers.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, lines 15 and 16, to leave out the words 'the councils of boroughs and elsewhere than in boroughs of counties,' and insert the words 'local authorities within the meaning of the last preceding section.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. J. A. Pease 939
Sir Albert Rollit 939
Mr. Walter Long 939

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 26, to leave out the words 'convicted of an offence under this Act and.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 27, to leave out the words 'ten pounds' and insert the words 'twenty shillings under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Dalziel... 940

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

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Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 1, at beginning, to insert the words 'It is hereby declared that.'"

"In page 6, line 1, leave out the word 'shall' and insert the words 'and the principal Act.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 22, at beginning, to leave out the word 'to.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill.—

"In page 6, line 22, to leave out the word 'to.'"

"In page 6, line 31, at end, to insert the words '(5) Any fine under this Act shall be recoverable by imprisonment in terms of the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, line 19, at end, to insert the words '(2) Sub-sections 1 and 3 of Article 32 of The Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, shall be substituted for Sub-sections 1 and 5 of Section 87 of The Local Government Act, 1888.'"

"In page 7, line 25, at end, to insert the words '(3) Sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of The Criminal Evidence Act, 1898, shall extend to Ireland in the case of a person charged with an offence under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Major Jameson 941

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, line 31, after the word 'car' to insert the words 'nor shall it include a motor-cycle.'"—(*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. William Redmond 941
Mr. Walter Long 941

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2) Bill.—As amended, considered.

Sir Walter Foster 942
Sir Albert Rollit 942
Mr. Thornton (Clapham) 943

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Public Buildings Expenses Bill—[THIRD READING].—Order for Third Reading read.

Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.) 943

Bill read the third time, and passed.

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Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.

Revenue Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid.*) 944
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 944
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Ritchie, Croydon*) 945
Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 945

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out Clause 2."—(*Major Jameson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4, and 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 28, to leave out from the first word 'company' to end of clause."—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8 agreed to.

Clause 9.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out Clause 9."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 17 agreed to.

Clause 18 agreed to.

Clause 19.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 35, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'shall come into operation on the first day of September nineteen hundred and three and.'"—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Schedules agreed to.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

Prevention of Corruption Bill [LORDS].—Order for Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 947

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London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 947

Metropolitan Improvements (Funds) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 947

Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment Bill [LORDS].—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 947

Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 947

County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill.—Order for Consideration of Lords Amendments read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Lord Hugh Cecil (*Greenwich*) 947

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'this day three months.'"—(*Lord Hugh Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Sir Albert Rollit 948

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment to the Amendment—

"In page 2, to leave out Sub-section 2."

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, to leave out Sub-section 2, and insert clause: 'A.—(1) Where two or more districts are consolidated, notwithstanding anything in Section 45 of the County Courts Act, 1888, contained, the Lord Chancellor, with the consent of the Treasury, may make such provision for the duties of the registrar and otherwise as he may think fit.'"

The next Amendment read a second time.

Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 950

Question, "That those words be there added," put, and agreed to.

Question "That the House do agree with the Lords Amendment, as amended," put, and agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments agreed to.

Light Railways Bill [LORDS].—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 952

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Return ordered, "of all the Draft Provisional Orders under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1889, which in the session of 1903 have been reported on by the Commissioners; together with the names of the Commissioners;

the first and also the last day of the sittings in each group; the number of days on which each body of Commissioners sat; the number of days on which each Commissioner has served; the number of days occupied by each Draft Provisional Order before Commissioners; the Draft Provisional Orders, the Preambles of which were reported to have been proved; and the Draft Provisional Orders, the Preambles of which were reported to have been not proved."—(*The Lord Advocate.*) 952

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty minutes after twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: WEDNESDAY, 12TH AUGUST, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hastings Harbour Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 953

Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 953

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to 953

Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation Bill.—Read 1ª; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899) deemed to have been read 2ª (*The Lord Balfour*); and reported from the Committee; and to be read 3ª to-morrow. (No. 219.) 953

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. Report, for the year 1902, on the museums, colleges, and institutions under the administration of the Board of Education.

II. General Reports on higher education, with Appendices, for the year 1902.

III. Lists of secondary schools, science and art schools and classes, and evening schools, under the administration of the Board, 1902–1903.

IV. Grants to School Boards—Grants paid to School Boards under Section 97 Elementary Education Act, 1870; School Board accounts; List of loans, 1902–1903 953

Butter Regulations: Final Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, to inquire and report upon the desirability of regulations under Section 4 of the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, 1899, for butter; with the Minute appointing the Committee. Minutes of evidence, with a digest of the evidence, appendices and index 953

CUSTOMS.—Forty-seventh Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs (for the year ended 31st March, 1903) 954

COLONIES (ANNUAL).—No. 393. Hong-Kong (Report for 1902). Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 954

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PACIFIC CABLE ACT, 1901 (ACCOUNT, 1902–1903).—Account showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of the Pacific Cable Act, 1901 (1 Edw. 7, c. 31), and the money received, expended, and borrowed, and securities created under the said Act, to the 31st March, 1903 954

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.—Account of the receipts and expenditure of the Paymaster-General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the funds of Suitors of the Court, in the year ended 28th February, 1903: Also, account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature, together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 954

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—Return respecting—laid before the House (pursuant to Order of the 12th of June last), and to be printed. (No. 214.) ... 954

Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2) Bill.—(*The Lord Kenyon.*) (No. 215.) Public Buildings Expenses Bill.—(*The Lord Windsor.*) (No. 216.) Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.—(*The Lord President, D. Devonshire.*) (No. 217.) Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill.—(*The Lord Chancellor.*) (No. 218.) Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow 954

Patent Office (Extension) Bill.—Committed: The Committee to meet forthwith 954

Motor-Cars Bill [H.L.]

The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 955

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Commons Amendments be now considered."

Earl Spencer 960

On Question, Motion put, and agreed to.

On Question, Commons Amendments agreed to.

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed 961

South African Loan and War Contribution Bill.

On Motion, to go into Committee.

Earl Spencer 961
The President of the Board of Agriculture (*The Earl of Onslow*) 964

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed.

Military Works Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 3ª, and passed 966

Public Works Loans Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed 966

Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of MORLEY in the Chair.]

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 966

Clauses 1, 2, and 3, agreed to.

Clause 4.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 8 agreed to.

Clause 9.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 16 agreed to.

Clause 17.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 967

Amendment moved—

> "In page 7, line 25, after Sub-section 2, to insert as a new sub-section the words 'In cases where it is desired to take carriages across a footway maintainable by the town council into the premises of any abutting owner, the town council may require the formation and maintenance by such owner of a crossing of the description above specified, or may require such owner to maintain the portion of the footway used by such carriages to their satisfaction.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 17, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 18 and 19 agreed to.

Clause 20.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 36 agreed to.

Clause 37.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 37, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 38 and 39 agreed to.

Clause 40.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

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Lord Balfour of Burleigh 968

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 9, to leave out from the word 'externally' to the word 'the' in line 11."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 40, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 41 to 43 agreed to.

Clause 44.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 44, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 45 and 46 agreed to.

Clause 47.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 47, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 48 agreed to.

Clause 49.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 49, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 50 agreed to.

Clause 51.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 969

Amendment moved—

"In page 19, line 41, after the word 'constable' to insert the words 'in this section the expression "street" includes any common stair.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 51, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 52 to 54 agreed to.

Clause 55.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 969

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 16, after the word 'determine' to insert the words, 'Provided that any ratepayer who is entitled to an exemption from any assessment leviable by the town council may appeal to the Secretary for Scotland against any such determination, and his decision shall be final.' Provided further—

"'(1.) That any such appeal shall be made within fourteen days from the publication or advertisement in manner provided by Section 340 of the principal Act, or otherwise, of the assessment appealed against; and

"'(2.) That in the event of any such appeal being sustained in whole or in part, and any such assessment being quashed or varied, it shall be competent to the town council, notwithstanding anything in the principal Act or any other Act contained, to forthwith rectify and re-adjust in accordance with the decision of the Secretary of Scotland, the assessment so quashed or varied.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 55, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 56 and 57 agreed to.

Clause 58.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 58, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 59.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 59, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 60.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 60, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 61.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 61, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 61 to 63 agreed to.

Clause 64.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 64, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 65 to 68 agreed to.

Clause 69.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 971

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 69."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 70 to 81 agreed to.

Clause 82.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 82, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 83 to 86 agreed to.

Clause 87.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 87, as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 88.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 88, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 89 to 93 agreed to

Clause 94.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 94, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 95 agreed to.

Clause 96.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 96, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 97.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 45, line 15, to leave out from the word 'burgh' to end of clause, and insert the words 'Section 50 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, relating to the adjustment of property and liabilities consequential on an alteration of boundaries, shall apply as if in lieu of that Act, and the Boundary Commissioners, the Burgh Police Acts, and the sheriff (not being a sheriff's substitute) were respectively mentioned therein; provided that nothing herein contained shall require the sheriff to entertain any application made after the expiry of one year from the date when such formation or extension takes effect.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

The Earl of Camperdown 972

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 97, as amended, agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "After Clause 97, to insert as a new clause the words 'a County Council may, at a meeting called after due notice, by resolution adopt the sections of this Act whereof the marginal notes are respectively "Manufacture and sale of ice cream" and "Ice cream shops, etc., to be registered," or either of such sections, and after a date to be specified in the resolution, the adopted section or sections shall have effect throughout the county, with the substitution of "county" for "burgh," of "County Council" for "Town Council," and of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, and Section 57 thereof for the principal Act, and Section 316 thereof. In this section the expression "county" shall mean a county excluding any burgh or police burgh situate therein.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 98.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 46, line 43, after the word 'trustees' to insert as a new sub-section: 'Nothing in this Act contained shall affect or prejudice the provisions of any Act relating to the Harbour and Docks at Leith, Aberdeen, Dundee, or Greenock.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 98, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 99 and 100 agreed to.

Clause 101.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 973

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 101."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 102 and 103 agreed to.

Clause 104.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 104, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 105.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 105, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 974

Amendment moved—

"In page 63, column 2, after line 10, to insert at end of section the words 'or is provided by a local authority other than a town council, and in such last-mentioned case notice of the proposal to provide a slaughter-house shall be given by such local authority to the town council of the burgh, and the town council may, within one month after receipt of such notice, appeal to the Local Government Board for Scotland against such proposal, and the decision of the Board shall be final.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Moved, "To leave out pages 64, 65, and 66."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Amendments reported. Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Town Councils (Scotland) Bill.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of MORLEY in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 to 6 agreed to.

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Clause 7.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 975

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 7."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8.

The Earl of Camperdown 975

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 33, to leave out the word 'retiral' and insert the word 'retirement.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 975
The Earl of Camperdown 975

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Amendments reported. Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Isle of Man (Customs) Bill.—Read 2ª (according to Order). Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed 976

Sheep Scab Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."

The Duke of Northumberland 977

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' and add at the end of the Motion the words, 'this day three months.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

The President of the Board of Agriculture (*The Earl of Onslow*) ... 982
Earl Spencer 985

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Bill read 2ª.

Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

House in Committee accordingly.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Earl of Onslow 988

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out the word 'that' and insert the word 'the,' and after the word 'authority' to insert the words 'appointing the inspector.'"—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

The Duke of Northumberland 988

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 4, to insert as a new clause the words: 'This Act shall continue in force till the 31st day of December, 1906, and no longer, unless Parliament shall otherwise determine.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

The Earl of Onslow 988

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Clause 5 and Title agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. Amendments reported. Bill read 3^{a}, with the Amendments; and passed, and returned to the Commons.

County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill.—Commons Amendment to Lords Amendments considered (on Motion), and agreed to 989

Patent Office (Extension) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment. Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^{a} to morrow 989

FREIGHT CONTRACTS.

Earl Grey 989
The Parliamentary Secretary for the Colonies (*The Duke of Marlborough*) 989
Earl Grey 990

PREFERENTIAL AND RETALIATORY DUTIES.

Lord Welby 991

Return ordered to be laid before the House.—(*The Lord Welby.*)

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Six o'clock till to-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 12TH AUGUST, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill.—Lords' Amendment considered, and agreed to 992

Hastings Harbour Bill [LORDS].—Ordered, That, in the case of the Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.

Bill, as amended, accordingly considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

(King's consent signified), Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 992

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North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [LORDS].—Ordered, That, in the case of the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 211, 223, 236, 237, and 243 be suspended.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 993

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Bill read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 993

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—They have agreed to—Amendments to South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords], Liverpool University Bill [Lords], Bradford Corporation Bill [Lords], Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [Lords], Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords], Salford Corporation Bill [Lords], Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [Lords], Bangor Corporation Bill [Lords], Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [Lords], Mid-Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords], North Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [Lords], Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [Lords], without Amendment 993

PETITION.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petition from Tunbridge Wells, against: to lie upon the Table 993

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 7th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 338.] 993

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (BUTTER REGULATIONS).—Copy presented, of Final Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to inquire into and report upon the desirability of Regulations for Butter, with copy of the Minute appointing the Committee [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 994

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (BUTTER REGULATIONS).—Copy presented, of Minutes of Evidence to the Final Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to inquire into and report upon the desirability of Regulations for Butter, with a digest of the evidence, appendices, and index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 994

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of (1) Grants paid to Schools Boards under Section 97 of Elementary Education Act, 1870, (2) School Board Accounts, (3) List of Loans, for 1902–3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 994

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Lists of Secondary Schools, Science and Art Schools and Classes and Evening Schools under the administration of the Board of Education, 1902–3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 994

CUSTOMS.—Copy presented, of Forty-seventh Report of the Commissioners of Customs for the year ended 31st March, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 994

IMPERIAL DEFENCE AND CONSULAR SERVICE.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 30th July; *Mr. Cathcart Wason*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 339.] 994

CONDITION OF TRADE AND PEOPLE.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 30th June; *Mr. Gibson Bowles*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 340.] 994

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ROYAL COMMISSIONS AND SELECT COMMITTEES (COST).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th May; *Mr. Malcolm*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 341.] 995

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (CONTRACTS).—Returns presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th July; *Sir Howard Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 342.] 995

PACIFIC CABLE ACT, 1901.—Account presented, showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of The Pacific Cable Act, 1901, and of the money received, expended, and borrowed, and securities created under the said Act to the 31st March, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 343.] 995

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.—Account presented, of receipts and expenditure of the Paymaster-General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the funds of Suitors of the Court in the year ended 28th February, 1903, and of account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 344.] 995

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented of Colonial Report, No. 393 (Hong-Kong, Annual Report for 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 995

RAND MINES (NATIVE MORTALITY).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 7th August; *Mr. Trevelyan*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.—[No. 345.] 995

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS.—Account presented, of deposits in Naval Savings Banks, and the payments thereof, and the interest thereon, etc., during the financial year 1901–02 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No 346.] 995

WORKMEN'S TRAINS.—Return ordered, "showing (1) the number of Workmen's Trains running on all Railways within the Metropolitan area; (2) the distance run and the fares charged on each particular train (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 187, of session 1900)."—(*Mr. Lough.*) ... 996

CYPRUS.—Return ordered, "(1) of all sums paid in each year, 1900–1901, 1901–02, by direction of His Majesty's Government, out of moneys arising from the revenues of Cyprus, in discharge of the interest upon the Turkish Loan guaranteed by this country under the Statute 18 and 19 Vic., c. 99; and (2) of all sums voted by Parliament during the same period in aid of the Administration of Cyprus; and also of the surplus remaining in each year over and above the payments made out of such revenues on account of the said Turkish Loan and laid aside by way of sinking fund, together with the interest thereon (in continuation of Parliamentary Papers, No. 42, of Session 1899, and No. 4, of Session 1902)."—(*Mr. Pierpoint.*) 996

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CONDEMNED RATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Lord Stanley 996

CUSTOMS SERVICE—PROMOTION IN THE WATERGUARD DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Luke White (Yorkshire, E.R., Buckrose); Answer, Mr. Elliot ... 997

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MOTOR-CAR ACCIDENTS.—Question, Mr. Bailey (Newington, Walworth); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 998

SCHOOLS IN RURAL DISTRICTS.—Question, Sir Mark Stewart (Kirkcudbrightshire); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 998

BRITISH MERCHANTS IN THE FRENCH CONGO.—Question, Mr. Charles McArthur (Liverpool, Exchange); Answer, Lord Cranborne 999

VENUE OF ULSTER WINTER ASSIZES.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson... 999

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ASSIMILATION OF BOUNDARIES OF PARLIAMENTARY AND MUNICIPAL BOROUGHS.—Question, Mr. H. C. Richards (Finsbury, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1000

ACCOMMODATION OF BRISTOL UNION INFIRMARIES.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1000

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT FOR A GIRL IN CHATHAM POOR LAW SCHOOLS.—Question, Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University); Answer, Mr. Walter Long ... 1001

AVERAGE AGE AT MARRIAGE.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1001

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BOARD OF EDUCATION—CONSULTATIVE AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEES.—Question, Mr. George Brown (Edinburgh, Central); Answer, Sir William Anson 1003

LINCOLN EDUCATION COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT OF A SOLICITOR.—Question, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answer, Sir William Anson ... 1003

POSTAL FACILITIES AT BUTTERSBRIDGE, COUNTY CAVAN.—Question, Mr. McGovern (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1003

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PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS OF SEAMEN AND MARINES KILLED IN TIME OF PEACE.—Question, Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. Ritchie ... 1005

DELAY IN APPOINTMENT OF MR. P. J. BOYLE AS LIGHT-KEEPER.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1005

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to: Railway (Electrical Power) Bill; South African Loan and War Contribution Bill; Military Works Bill; Public Works Loans Bill; Isle of Man (Customs) Bill, without Amendment.

Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill; Town Councils (Scotland) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have agreed to: Sheep Scab Bill with an Amendment ... 1035

NEW BILL.

Alkali, Etc., Works Bill.—"To consolidate and amend the Akali, etc., Works Regulation Acts, 1881 and 1892," presented by Mr. Walter Long; supported by Mr. Grant Lawson; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 325.] 1035

Irish Land Bill.—Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert the words 'provided that if any person interested in the estate makes application to the Land Commission in the prescribed manner, the order sanctioning the advance shall set forth the specific grounds for dealing with the case under this sub-section instead of under the foregoing provisions of this section.'"

The first Amendment, read a second time.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1036
Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) 1037

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

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Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, line 23, to leave out the words 'and adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of the estate.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. Wyndham 1037
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1037

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In line 26, at end of sub-section, to add the words 'provided that the Land Commission may, if they think it necessary for furthering the purposes of this Act, dispense with the condition in this sub-section that the land purchased and re-sold shall be adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of the estate.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

"In page 2, line 40, to leave out the words 'to the vendor.' Line 41, to leave out the word 'the' and insert the word 'a.' Line 42, after the word 'application' to insert 'within the prescribed time.'"

"In page 4, line 5, after the word 'it' to insert the words: '(5) If the owner of any demesne or other land subject to settlement and sold to the Land Commission does not repurchase the same within the prescribed time, the Land Commission may make an advance under this section to the trustees of the settlement, and in such case the land resold shall be held subject to the trusts of the settlement. (6) Any land resold in pursuance of this section shall not be subject to the provisions of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, relating to the devolution of freehold registered land.'"

"In page 5, line 5, after the word 'Commission' to insert the words 'with the consent of the owner.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Lords Amendments agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 7, line 16, to leave out 'the foregoing provisions' and insert 'Sub-section 1 of Section 1.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. Wyndham 1038

Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 8, line 3, to leave out the words 'the exclusive.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1039
Mr. Wyndham 1039
Mr. Murphy (*Kerry, E.*) 1041
Mr. Wyndham 1041
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 1043
Mr. Hemphill (*Tyrone, N.*) 1044
Colonel Saunderson (*Armagh, N.*) 1044

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Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 1044
Mr. Nolan (Louth, S.) 1045
Mr. McGovern (Cavan, W.) 1046
Mr. T. M. Healy 1046

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 8, line 5, to leave out the first word 'tenant' and insert the word 'purchaser,' and leave out the second word 'tenant' and insert the word 'purchaser.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 8, line 6, to leave out the word 'landlord' and insert the word 'vendor,' and insert the following sub-section: '(2) In default of any agreement between the tenant and the vendor, all sporting rights shall go to and be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission may deal with the same subject to any rules which may be made by the Lord Lieutenant.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

> "To leave out Sub-section 2 and insert the words 'In the absence of such agreement those rights shall be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission may deal with the same subject to any regulations to be made by the Lord Lieutenant.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 8, line 8, after the word 'land' to insert the words 'and the expression "game" has the same meaning as in Section 5 of the Act of 1881, and also includes deer.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.)... 1048
Mr. Wyndham 1048

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 8, line 13, after the word 'on' to insert the words 'or under.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 8, line 20, after the word 'clay' to insert the words 'Provided also, that where any such right reserved to the Land Commission under this sub-section is at any time hereafter let, leased, sold, or demised by them, the vendor (or the person who would have been entitled thereto if the lands had not been sold) shall be entitled

to receive 25 per cent. of any rent, purchase money, or other net profit received by the Land Commission in respect of same, unless the Land Commission shall have purchased from the person entitled to such percentage his interest therein, and the Land Commission may purchase such interest at any time on such terms as may be sanctioned by the Treasury.' "

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1049

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 6, to leave out the words '25' and insert the word '1.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words '25' stand part of the Lords Amendment."

Mr. Wyndham 1050
Mr. McGovern 1051
Mr. John Redmond 1051
Mr. Wyndham 1052
Mr. J. P. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) 1053
Mr. O'Doherty 1053
Mr. Murphy 1053
Mr. Kilbride 1054
Mr. Wyndham 1054
Mr. Clancy (*Dublin County, N.*) 1055
Sir James Haslett (*Belfast, N.*) 1056
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 1058
Mr. Hemphill 1059
Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 1060

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 102; Noes, 70. Division List, No. 261.

Mr. McGovern 1061

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 8, after the word 'same,' to insert the words 'until the year 1920.'"—(*Mr. McGovern.*)

Mr. T. M. Healy 1063
Sir John Colomb 1063
Mr. Wyndham 1063
Mr. John Redmond 1063

Amendment to the Lords Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In lines 22 and 23, leave out the words 'disposed of or.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 8, line 28, after the word 'thereby,' to insert the following sub-section: '(6) Any person authorised by, or in pursuance of the last preceding sub-section, to enter upon land for the purpose of

exercising a sporting right shall have the same authority to prosecute for trespass in pursuit of game or fish as if he were the owner of that land.' "

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 6, to leave out the word 'owner,' and insert the word 'occupier.' "—(*Mr Atkinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'owner' stand part of the Lords Amendment."

Mr. T. M. Healy 1064
Mr. Tully 1065
Mr. McGovern 1065

Amendment to Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

"In page 8, line 36, after the word 'Commissioners' to insert the following sub-section: '(2) Where those Commissioners refuse to consent to the vesting of any such monument in them, the Land Commission may, with the consent of the Council of the County within which the monument is situate, make an order vesting the monument in that Council, and Sub-section 2 of Section 19 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, shall thereupon apply.' "

"In page 9, line 25, after the word 'Acts' to insert the words 'to tenants.' "

"In page 11, line 4, after the word 'person' to insert the words 'not under disability'; line 13, after '1896' to insert the words 'which interest shall be at a rate not less than 3½ per cent. per annum.' "

"In page 12, line 3, to leave out the word 'had' and insert the word 'have'; line 6, to leave out the word 'of' and insert the words 'mentioned in.' "

The next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 13, line 9, to leave out from the word 'mentioned' to the end of the sub-section, and insert the words 'any question of law may, if the Estates Commissioners think fit, and shall on the application of any person interested, be referred for the decision of a Judicial Commissioner, unless the Estates Commissioners certify in writing that the application is frivolous. (2) Any person aggrieved by any refusal of the Commissioners so to refer any such question may, in the manner prescribed by rules of Court, and within the time prescribed by the Judicial Commissioner, apply to the High Court, or any Judge thereof, for an order requiring the Commissioners so to refer the question, and the decision of the High Court or Judge upon any such application shall be final.' "

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. Wyndham 1066

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 7, after the word 'Court' to leave out all words to end of Sub-section 2, and insert the words 'under Sub-section 1 of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act, 1877.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment to Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

"In page 13, line 13, leave out the words 'agents or solicitors' and insert the words 'land agents, solicitors, or land clerks.'"

"In line 15, after the word 'nomination' to insert the words 'may be negotiated.'"

"In line 19, after the word 'Commission' to insert the following sub-section: '(12) Where in the case of the sale of an estate to persons other than the Land Commission an agent has been employed by the vendor to negotiate the sale, such sum as may be sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners may, with the consent of such vendor, be paid to that agent out of the purchase money as part of the costs connected with the sale.'"

"In page 15, line 14, to leave out the words 'or order as the case may be' and insert the words 'for sale.'"

"In line 17, to leave out the words 'Estate Commissioners' and insert the words 'Land Commission.'"

"In line 19, after the word 'money' to insert the following sub-section: 'For the purpose of giving effect to this enactment the Land Commission may, if they think fit, in the case of a terminable charge, satisfy the same by the investment in any securities in which trustees are by law authorised to invest trust money of a capital sum the annual income of which will be sufficient to satisfy the annual amount of the charge.'"

"In page 16, line 30, after the word 'prescribed' to insert the words 'as if purchase money distributable under this section were money paid or deposited under those sections.'"

The next Amendments, read a second time and agreed to.

Mr. Wyndham 1067

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 24, page 13, line 36, at end, to insert the words 'Any charge or incumbrance may be paid off notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or instrument to the contrary.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

"In page 16, line 37, to leave out the word 'the' and insert the word 'a.'"

"In page 16, line 38, after the word 'appeal' to insert the words 'or any question other than one of law.'"

"In page 17, lines 4 and 5, to leave out the words 'making a claim upon' and insert the words 'whose claim has been so attached to.'"

"In page 17, line 11, after the first word 'payable' to insert the words 'out of the purchase money, or recoverable under any agreement or covenant.'"

The next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 17, line 13, after the word 'advances' to insert the words 'provided that in the case of the sale of an Estate under the Land Purchase Acts any charge or incumbrance thereon may be paid off notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or other instrument to the contrary: Provided that this sub-section shall not apply in any case where the Land Commission are satisfied that it is not owing to any act or default of such person that his title is not established and the amount of his claim invested as aforesaid.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 1, after the word 'advances' to leave out the words 'provided that in case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts any charge or incumbrance thereon may be paid off notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or other instrument to the contrary.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment to the Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

"In page 17, at end of line 23, after the word 'Act' to insert the following sub-section: '(4) Notwithstanding anything in this section, any vendor or incumbrancer may apply to the Court to invest the purchase money, pending distribution, in any of the securities from time to time authorised by law for the investment of trust funds.' And also insert the following clause: 'Where a person who would otherwise be entitled to sell land under the Land Purchase Acts is a lunatic, the Lord Chancellor may order the land to be sold as if the sale was required for one of the purposes mentioned in Section 63 of the Lunacy Regulation (Ireland) Act, 1871, and that section shall apply accordingly.' In line 39, after the word 'equal' insert the words 'half-yearly or.'"

"In page 19, line 28, to leave out the words, in so far as any,' and insert the word 'where.'"

"In page 19, line 29, to leave out the words 'to purchasers to be repaid by means of purchase annuities.'"

"In page 19, line 41, to leave out the words 'purchase of the land' and insert the words 'vesting of land in the Commission.'"

"In page 20, lines 17 and 25, to leave out the words 'repayable by means of purchase annuities' and insert the words 'on which such ten shillings per cent. is payable by the Land Commission.'"

"In page 21, line 3, to leave out the words 'eight' and insert 'seven.'"

"In page 21, line 36, after the word 'made' to insert the words 'and may only be varied.'"

"In page 22, line 27, after the word 'Commission' to insert the words 'direct the.'"

The next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 25, line 11, after the word 'price,' to insert the words, 'or to an estate so circumstanced in respect of which an absolute order for sale by the Land Judge was in force at the date of the passing of the Act.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1068

Lords Amendment, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 25, line 32, after the word 'in,' to insert the words; '(*a*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon rates or taxes levied under the authority of any Act of Parliament or Provisional Order by any municipal corporation or other local authority in the United Kingdom which shall be authorised to borrow on such security; (*b*) Ground rents arising out of hereditaments in the United Kingdom and not exceeding in amount one-fourth part of the annual value at a rackrent of the premises out of which such ground rents issue; (*c*) Debentures or mortgages of railway companies in the United Kingdom incorporated by Act of Parliament; (*d*) Stocks or shares of any tramway or light railway interest upon which is guaranteed from or charged upon under the Tramways (Ireland) Acts; (*e*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon any investments in which trustees are authorised by this or any other Act to investment funds; (*f*) Debentures or fully-paid shares or stocks of any railway. Provided that the sufficiency or any such investments to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust, shall be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustees under this Act.'"

The next Amendment read a second time.

Drafting Amendment made.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

> "In page 26, line 3, after the word 'section,' to insert the words '(4) In the case of all proceedings in relation to any lands sold under the Land Purchase Acts, or any charges thereon, or any moneys realised thereby, if it appears to the Court that a trustee is, or may be, personally liable for any breach of trust, whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the passing of this Act, but has acted honestly and reasonably, and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust, and for omitting to obtain the directions of the Court in the matter in which he committed such breach, then the Court may relieve the trustee, either wholly or partly, from personal liability for the same.'"
>
> "In page 26, lines 39 and 40, to leave out the words, 'by the Lord Lieutenant.'"

The next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 27, line 11, after the word 'require,' to insert the following sub-section: '(14) The powers conferred on the Land Commission by the foregoing provisions of this section may be exercised by the Land Judge in any case where the purchase money of land sold under the Land Purchase Acts is or has been distributed by him, and those provisions shall apply accordingly with the substitution of the Land Judge for the Land Commission.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Drafting Amendment made.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 27, line 12, after the word 'by,' to insert the words 'the Land Judge and.'"

"In page 27, line 28, to leave out from the word 'that,' to the first word 'in' in line 32."

"In page 27, line 34, after the word 'county' to insert the words 'the said limitation may, subject to the other limitations in the Land Purchase Acts, be exceeded where the Land Commission consider that a larger advance may be sanctioned to any purchaser without prejudice to the wants and circumstances of other persons residing in the neighbourhood.'"

"In page 28, in lines 3 and 4, to leave out the words 'under the circumstances aforesaid,' and insert the words 'where the Land Commission consider it expedient under the circumstances mentioned in the preceding sub-section.'"

"In page 28, line 25, after the word 'after,' to insert the words 'they become aware of.'"

"In page 28, line 34, after the word 'otherwise,' to insert the following sub-section: '(2) Not more than one person shall, without the consent of the Land Commission, be registered as the owner of the holding under Part IV. of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891.'"

"In page 28, line 40, after the word 'holding,' to insert the words 'or part thereof.'"

"In page 28, line 41, after the word 'holding,' to insert the words 'or part.'"

"In page 29, line 2, after the word 'part,' to insert the words 'the consent of the Land Commission under this enactment may, in the case of a charge created by a will, be given at any time whether before or after the death of the testator.'"

"In page 29, line 3, to leave out the words 'a holding' and insert the words 'the holding executed after the commencement of this Act.'"

"In page 29, line 7, after the word 'chargeant' to insert the words 'or, in the case of a charge created by a will or codicil, within six months from the death of the testator.'"

"In page 29, line 12, to leave out the word 'whether.'"

"In page 29, line 13, after the word 'instance,' to insert the words 'or with the consent,' and leave out the words 'or at the suit of an incumbrancer.'"

"In page 29, line 14, after the word 'sold,' to insert the words 'subject to the purchase annuity (if any) and any charge under any Public Works Acts, but'; and after the word 'all' to insert the word 'other.'"

"In page 29, line 15, to leave out from the words 'incumbrances' to the word 'of,' in line 16."

"In page 29, line 24, to leave out the word 'require' and insert the words 'request to be furnished with.'"

"In page 29, line 26, to leave out the words 'charged with an annual sum payable in respect of' and insert the words 'in respect of which.'"

"In page 29, line 27, after the word 'Acts' to insert the words 'has been made.'"

The next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 31, after Clause 58, to insert the following clause: '(1) Where, in the course of proceedings for the sale under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, or the Land Purchase Acts, of an estate it appears that the owner or any tenants of holdings on the estate are in occupation of portions of an adjoining estate, and that the owner or any tenants of holdings on the adjoining estate are in occupation of portions of the first-mentioned estate, whether such exchange of occupation is the result of an agreement or is occasioned by the alteration of the course of a stream, or otherwise, the Land Judge or the Judicial Commissioner, as the case may be, may, if he thinks it expedient, with the consent of the owners of the respective estates, make an order ratifying the exchange, and the order, or a map or plan annexed thereto, shall show the lands given and taken in exchange respectively. (2) The land taken upon any such exchange shall be deemed to be held by the same tenure, and shall, without any conveyance or other assurance in relation thereto, go and enure to and upon the same uses and trusts and be subject to the same rents, conditions, charges, and incumbrances, as the land given upon such exchange would have stood limited upon and been subject to if the order had not been made; and the land given upon such exchange shall be deemed to be held by the same tenure, and shall without any conveyance or other assurance in relation thereto, go and enure to and upon the same uses and trusts and be subject to the same rents, conditions, charges, and incumbrances as the land taken upon such exchange would have stood limited upon and been subject to if the order had not been made. (3) All rights and remedies for recovery of rents payable in respect of either portions of the lands so exchanged shall be exercisable in respect of, and may be pursued against, the lands given or taken upon such exchange, as the case may be, in the same manner as they might theretofore have been exercised or pursued against the lands originally liable thereto.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1072

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 11, after the word 'of' to insert the words 'or of notice in the prescribed manner to.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Wyndham 1073

Amendment to the Lords Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 11, after the word 'owners' to insert the words 'or of notice in the prescribed manner to the owners and giving them an opportunity of being heard.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Consequential Amendment made to the Bill.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 32, line 18, to leave out the word 'the' and insert the word 'a.'"

"In page 32, line 36, after the word 'balance' to insert the following sub-section: '(3) Where in the like case the Court is satisfied that the land sold is entitled to be indemnified against any claim in respect of a superior interest by other lands, and that the other lands are a sufficient security therefor, the Court may, upon such terms (if any) and in such manner as appears equitable, exclusively charge the whole of the superior interest upon the other lands. (4) The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply with the necessary modifications, to any superior interest or portion thereof affecting the land sold, or to the redemption money of such interest or portion, as if the same were land sold.'"

"In page 33, lines 12 to 14, to leave out Sub-section 3."

"In page 33, line 17, to leave out the words 'therein mentioned' and insert the words 'of a superior interest.'"

"In page 33, line 22, to leave out the words 'for the nonpayment of any sum due to them.'"

"In page 34, line 6, after the word 'deposit' to insert the following sub-section: '(3) Where any land upon which portion of a purchase annuity has been charged by the Land Commission is conveyed to the proprietor of a holding subject to a purchase annuity, that holding and the land so conveyed shall be deemed one holding, and the said annuity and portion shall be payable in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.'"

"In page 34, line 42, after the word 'may' to insert the words 'on the application of any person interested or without such application with the consent of the Lord Chancellor,' and to leave out the words 'such authority and' and to insert the words 'the Judicial Commissioner if he thinks fit.'"

"In page 35, line 17, after the word 'cent' to insert the words 'per annum.'"

"In page 35, line 40, after the word 'the' to insert the words 'trustees of the.'"

The next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 36, line 15, after the word 'vendor' to insert the words 'or to the trustees of a settlement.'"—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 36, line 18, after the word 'less' to insert the following sub section: '(2) Sub-section 4 of Section 3 of this Act shall apply in the case of any land in respect of which an advance is made in pursuance of this section.'"

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 2, after the word 'four' to insert the words 'and Subsection 6.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment to Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

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Lords Amendments—

"In page 36, line 35, after the word 'cutting' to insert the words 'or making.'"

"In page 38, line 2, after the word 'Board' to insert the words 'in lieu of the member of the Land Commission nominated under Sub-section 1 of Section 34 of the Act of 1891.' And also to insert the following clause:—'Section 18 of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, which makes provision with respect to congested districts counties, is hereby repealed.'"

The next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 38, line 36, to leave out the word 'any' and insert the words 'subject to the provisions of this Act any.'"

The next Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 38, line 38, to leave out the word 'appeal' and to insert the words 'apply for a re-hearing.'"

The next Amendment read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 39, line 5, after the word 'assessor,' to insert the words 'who shall hear the evidence and inspect the holding, and report thereon to the Judicial Commissioner.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 2, after the word 'and' to insert the words 'on the application of either of the parties.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment to Lords Amendment agreed to.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1075

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 3, at end, to add the words 'in the prescribed manner.'" —(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Wyndham 1076
Mr. T. M. Healy 1076
The Solicitor General for Ireland (*Mr. James Campbell, Dublin University*) 1076

Amendment to the Lords Amendment, agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 38, line 36, to leave out the word 'any' and to insert the words 'subject to the provisions of this Act any.'"

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 39, lines 6 to 8, leave out Sub-section 3."

The next Amendment read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 39, line 9, after the word 'appeal' to insert the words 'or on any re-hearing (except in cases where the valuation does not exceed £20).'"

The next Amendment, read a second time, amended, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 39, line 10, after the word 'which' to insert the words 'could have been but.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 39, lines 12 and 15, after the word 'Commissioner' to insert the words 'who hears the Appeal.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

> "In line 2, after the word 'Appeal' to add the words 'or re-hearing.'"—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment to Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

> "In page 39, line 20, after the word 'made' to insert the words 'by the Judicial Commissioners with the approval of the Lord Chancellor.'"
>
> "In page 39, line 22, to leave out from the word 're-hearings' to the end of the clause, and insert the words 'and those rules shall, among other things, provide for an *ad valorem* scale of fees to be paid on notices of appeal or re-hearing.'"
>
> "In page 39, line 24, to leave out the words 'Land Commission' and insert the words 'Judicial Commissioner.'"
>
> Leave out Clause 87.
>
> "In page 40, line 17, after the word 'reason' to insert the word 'solely.'"
>
> "In page 40, line 19, to leave out the word 'judicially' and insert the words 'in the absence of other provision.'"
>
> "In page 40, line 22, after the word 'apply' to insert the words 'as from the commencement of this Act.'"
>
> "In page 40, line 30, after the word '1881' to insert the words 'or under that section.'"
>
> "In page 40, line 38, to leave out the words 'the representation' and insert the words 'any representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, affecting him.'"

The next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 41, lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'a Court of Summary Jurisdiction' and insert the words 'the County Court Judge.'"

The next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. William Redmond 1078
Mr. T. M. Healy 1079

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendments—

"In page 41, line 30, to leave out the words 'must either be' and insert the words 'is either.' Line 31, to leave out the word 'be' and insert the word 'is.'"

"In page 42, line 6, to leave out from the word 'Commission' to the word 'the' in line 8, and insert the words 'in the manner directed by Sub-section 6 of Section 29 of the Act of 1891.' The expression 'demesne' includes any mansion, house or other buildings thereon. The expression 'vesting order' includes fiat. Line 34, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'or enactment,' and after the word 'amending' to insert the word 'applying.'"

"In page 44, line 22, after the first word 'three' to insert the words 'in Sub-section 1 of Section 34, from 'a member' to 'forestry' and the words 'the Chief Secretary when absent shall be replaced by the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.'"

The next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Ordered, "That a Committee be appointed to draw up Reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments to the Bill."

Committee nominated of—Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. Sergeant Hemphill, Mr. John Redmond, Colonel Saunderson, and Mr. Wyndham.

Committee to withdraw immediately.

Three to be the quorum.—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

The Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time to-morrow 1080

Irish Land Bill

Reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords 1080

CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY AND INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY (AGREEMENTS).—Motion made, and Question proposed—"That the Agreement dated the 30th day of July, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the Cunard Steamship Company, Limited, printed in Command Paper No. 1703, and the Agreement dated the 1st day of August, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the International Mercantile Marine Company and others, printed in Command Paper No. 1704, be approved. —(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) 1080
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 1085

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'this House regrets that an arrangement was made with the Cunard Steamship Company without first ascertaining by public competition the terms upon which the Government requirements might have been met by other companies.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Debate arising.

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY AND INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY (AGREEMENTS).—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Amendment to Question [12th August], "That the Agreement dated the 30th day of July, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the Cunard Steamship Company, Limited, printed in Command Paper No. 1703, and the Agreement dated the 1st day of August, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the International Mercantile Marine Company and others, printed in Command Paper No. 1704, be approved."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

Which Amendment was—

> "To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'this House regrets that an arrangement was made with the Cunard Steamship Company without first ascertaining by public competition the terms upon which the Government requirements might have been met by other companies.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Debate resumed.

Sir Fortescue Flannery (*Yorkshire, Shipley*) 1089
Sir William Allan (*Gateshead*) 1091
Mr. Charles McArthur (*Liverpool, Exchange*) 1092
Mr. Rea (*Gloucester*) 1095
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (*Aston Manor*) 1098
The Secretary to the Admiralty (*Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.*) ... 1103
Sir John Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 1106
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 1106
Mr. David MacIver (*Liverpool, Kirkdale*) 1108

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 92; Noes, 18. (Division List No. 262.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved that the Agreement dated the 30th day of July, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the Cunard Steamship Company, Limited, printed in Command Paper No. 1703, and the Agreement dated the 1st day of August, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the International Mercantile Marine Company and others, printed in Command Paper No. 1704, be approved.

Port of London Bill.—Motion made, Question proposed, "That further proceedings on the Port of London Bill be suspended till the next session of Parliament: That on any day in that session a Motion may be made, after notice, by a Minister of the Crown, to be decided without Amendment or Debate, that proceedings on that Bill may be resumed, and if that Motion is decided in the affirmative the said Bill, as reported from the Joint Committee, shall stand committed to a Committee of the Whole House in like-

manner as if the proceedings on the Bill or in relation thereto had taken place in that session in due compliance with all Standing Orders. That this Order be a Standing Order of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 1111
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 1112
Sir Joseph Dimsdale (*London*) 1113
Mr. Rea (*Gloucester*) 1114
Mr. David Morgan (*Essex, Walthamstow*)... 1114

Ordered, That further proceedings on the Port of London Bill be suspended till the next session of Parliament.

Ordered, That on any day in that session a Motion may be made, after notice, by a Minister of the Crown, to be decided without Amendment or debate, that proceedings on that Bill may be resumed, and if that Motion is decided in the affirmative the said Bill, as reported from the Joint Committee, shall stand committed to a Committee of the Whole House in like manner as if the previous proceedings on the Bill or in relation thereto had taken place in that session, after due compliance with all Standing Orders.

Ordered, That this Order be a Standing Order of the House.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Revenue Bill.—As amended, considered; Bill read the third time, and passed 1115

Employment of Children Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 1115

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.—Lords Amendments considered.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 22, after the word 'appeal' to insert the words 'and no other magistrate is available.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

The Lord Advocate (*Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire*) 1116

Lords Amendments agreed to.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 13TH AUGUST, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation Bill. Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 1117

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—(ANNUAL SERIES).
No. 3058. Portugal (Chinde).
No. 3059. Turkey (Damascus).
No. 3060. United States (Portland (Oregon).
No. 3061. Brazil (Bahia).

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No. 3062. Russia (St. Petersburg).
No. 3063. Zanzibar (Zanzibar).
No. 3064. Portugal (Northern Portugal).
No. 3065. France (Society Islands) 1117

MISCELLANEOUS, No. 4. (1903).—Correspondence respecting the application of the French Law of Association to institutions of British origin 1117

AFRICA, No. 10. (1903).—Despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Brussels respecting the Commission for the Protection of the Natives, instituted by the Government of the Independent Congo State under the Decree of 18th September, 1896 1117

BOARD OF EDUCATION. — Report of the Board of Education, for the year 1902–1903 1117

LUNACY (IRELAND).—Fifty-second Report, with Appendices, of the Inspectors of Lunatics in Ireland, for the year 1902 1117

LABOUR STATISTICS.—Ninth Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom, 1901–1902 1117

"OPTIONS" AND "FUTURES" IN FOODSTUFFS (LEGISLATION RESPECTING).—Reports from the Canadian Government and from His Majesty's representatives abroad on legislative measures respecting gambling in "Option" and "Future" contracts as regards food-stuffs 1117

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade:

I. Authorising the Construction of Light Railways in—The city of Gloucester; the parishes of Wotton St. Mary (Without), Barnwood, Hucclecote, and Brockworth, in the county of Gloucester.

II. Amending the Callington Light Railway Order, 1900.

III. Amending the West Manchester Light Railways Order, 1899, and authorising the construction of additional light railways in the parish and urban district of Stretford, in the county of Lancaster.
Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1118

LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1881.—Returns for the year 1901–1902 1118

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS.—Account of deposits in Naval Savings Banks and the payments thereof, and of interest thereon, of all investments under the Naval Savings Banks Act, 1866, and the application of the interest or dividends accruing in respect thereof, and of the proceeds of any sale of any stocks, annuities, or securities during the financial year 1901–1902 ... 1118

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (IRELAND) (PROBATE DIVISION).—Accounts, for the year ended 31st December, 1902 1118

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1870.—Two Orders in Council of the 10th August, 1903, entitled "The Niger Navigation Order in Council, 1903," and "The Niger Transit Order in Council, 1903" 1118

DOCKYARD PORTS REGULATION ACT, 1865.—Order in Council of the 10th August, 1903, making rules and regulations for the dockyard port of Queenstown 1118

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MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Two orders in Council of 10th August, 1903, (*a*) varying the dues payable in respect of the Basses and Minicoy lights, and (*b*) confirming three Merchant Shipping Ordinances enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of Hong Kong 1119

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894, AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (MERCANTILE MARINE FUND) ACT, 1898.—Order in Council of 10th August, 1903, altering the scale of light dues set out in the Second Schedule to the Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act, 1898.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1119

Revenue Bill.—Brought from the Commons 1119

Sheep Scab Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to 1119

Employment of Children Bill; Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill; Town Councils (Scotland) Bill; Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill. Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to 1119

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to, with a consequential Amendment to the Bill 1119

Public Buildings Expenses Bill; Expiring Laws Continuance Bill. Read 2ª (according to Order). Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed 1119

Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill.—Read 2ª (according to Order) Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª. Amendments made. Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 1119

Patent Office (Extension) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed... 1120

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.—Commons consequential Amendment considered (on Motion), and agreed to 1120

Revenue Bill.—Read 1ª: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX having been suspended), read 2ª: Committee negatived: Bill read 3ª, and passed ... 1120

MACEDONIA, CHINA, AND VENEZUELA.—

Earl Spencer 1120
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 1121

Irish Land Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with several of the Amendments made by the Lords agreed to; with several other of such Amendments agreed to, with Amendments; and with consequential Amendments to the Bill; with several other Amendments disagreed to; with Reasons for such disagreement.

On the Motion for the consideration of the Commons Amendments to the Lords Amendments.

The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 1125
The Duke of Abercorn 1126
Lord Clonbrock 1127

Moved, That this House do agree with the Commons in the Amendments made to their Amendments, and do not insist on their Amendments to which the Commons had disagreed.—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2) Bill [SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Kenyon 1128

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*Lord Kenyon.*)

On Question, Bill read 2ª; Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 3ª, and passed.

UNFINISHED CONDITION OF THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER.

Lord Stanmore 1128
The First Commissioner of Works (*Lord Windsor*) 1130

WAR OFFICE TRACTION ENGINES.

The Earl of Northbrook 1131

Moved, that an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for any order that may have been issued by the Secretary of State for War directing the drivers of traction engines employed by the War Office to conform to the limits of speed laid down by, and the other regulations contained in, the Locomotives Act, 1865.—(*The Earl of Northbrook.*)

The Under Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Hardwicke*) 1133
The Marquess of Ripon 1134
The Earl of Wemyss 1135
The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 1136
The Earl of Northbrook 1137

On Question, Motion agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

SUBSIDIES TO SHIPPING COMPANIES—THE CUNARD AGREEMENT.

Earl Spencer 1137

Moved, That there be laid before the House a return showing—

1. The amount, and date, and duration of any subsidies given in the past by His Majesty's Government to shipping companies, and the number of ships embraced in these arrangements, with the speed of the ships.

2. The number of ships and their speed embraced in the present arrangement with the Cunard Company.—(*Earl Spencer.*)

The First Lord of the Admiralty (*The Earl of Selborne*) 1143

On Question, Motion agreed to.

SHIPPING FREIGHTS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Earl Grey 1148

Moved, for a Return giving the rates per ton on shipments of rails consigned to South African ports by His Majesty's Government between the years 1898 and 1903."—(*Earl Grey.*)

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Duke of Marlborough*) 1149

On Question, Motion, as amended, agreed to.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before seven o'clock, until To-morrow, Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 13TH AUGUST, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—They have agreed to Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation Bill without Amendment.

Amendments to Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords] without Amendment .. 1152

PETITION.

SOUTH AFRICA (COST OF GARRISON).—Petition from London, against contribution by India: to lie upon the Table 1152

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT).—Copy presented, of Ninth Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom, 1901–2 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1152

"OPTIONS" AND "FUTURES" IN FOOD-STUFFS (LEGISLATION).—Copies presented, of Reports from the Canadian Government and from His Majesty's Representatives abroad on legislative measures respecting gambling in "Option" and "Future" Contracts as regards food-stuffs [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1152

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending the West Manchester Light Railways Order, 1899, and authorising the construction of additional light railways in the parish and urban district of Stretford and county of Lancaster (West Manchester Light Railways (Extensions and Amendment) Order, 1903) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. 1152

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the parishes of Wotton St. Mary (Without), Barnwood, Hucclecote, and Brockworth, in the county of Gloucester (County of Gloucester (Gloucester and Brockworth) Light Railways Order, 1903) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1153

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the city of Gloucester (Gloucester Corporation Light Railways Order, 1903) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1153

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending the Callington Light Railway Order, 1900, Callington Light Railway (Extension of Time) Order, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1153

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE AND INDUSTRY.—Copy presented, of Memoranda, Statistical Tables and Charts prepared in the Board of Trade with reference to various matters bearing on British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1153

WORKMEN'S TRAINS.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 12th August; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 347.] ... 1153

LUNACY (IRELAND.)—Copy presented, of 52nd Report, with Appendices, of Inspectors of Lunatics (Ireland) for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1153

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Education for the year 1902-3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1153

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Copy presented, of Two Orders in Council of 10th August, 1903, (a) varying the dues payable in respect of the Basses and Minicoy Lights; and (b) confirming three Merchant Shipping Ordinances enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of Hong-Kong [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1154

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894, AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (MERCANTILE MARINE FUND) ACT, 1898.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 10th August, 1903, altering the Scale of Light Dues set out in the Second Schedule to The Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act, 1898 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1154

DOCKYARD PORTS REGULATION ACT, 1865.—Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 10th August, 1903, making Rules and Regulations for the Dockyard Port of Queenstown [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1154

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Copy presented, of Two Orders in Council of 10th August, 1903, entitled The Niger Navigation Order in Council, 1903, and the Niger Transit Order in Council, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1154

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT (1899).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 11th August; *The Lord Advocate*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 348] 1154

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS (SCOTLAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 20th July; *Mr. Cathcart Wason*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 349] 1154

ASSESSMENTS (COUNTIES, CITIES, AND BURGHS) (SCOTLAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 10th August; *Sir John Stirling-Maxwell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 350] 1154

LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of the Annual Local Taxation Returns for Scotland for the year 1901-2 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 351.] 1155

CYPRUS.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 12th August; *Mr. Pierpoint*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 352.] 1155

COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE) (IRELAND).—Annual Account presented, of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1155

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT, 1902-3.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 7th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 353.] 1155

AFRICA.—(No. 10, 1903) Copy presented, of Despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Brussels respecting the Commission for the Protection of the Natives, instituted by the Government of the Independent Congo State under the Decree of 18th September, 1896 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1155

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3058 to 3065 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1155

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FRENCH LAW OF ASSOCIATION (MISCELLANEOUS, NO. 4, 1903).—Copy presented of Correspondence respecting the application of the French Law of Association to Institutions of British origin [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1155

TRANSPORTS (SOUTH AFRICAN WAR).—Returns presented, relative thereto [ordered 5th August; *Mr. Buchanan*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 354.] 1155

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.—Return ordered "(I.) Of the Companies registered during the year ended the 31st day of December, 1902, which filed a prospectus and to which certificates to commence business has been granted, stating—

(1) The date of registration.
(2) The date of the prospectus.
(3) The amount of the nominal capital.
(4) The amount of each share.
(5) The amount issued or to be issued otherwise than for cash.
(6) The amount offered for subscription in cash.
(7) The amount underwritten.
(8) The commission for underwriting.
(9) The minimum subscription required.
(10) The amount allotted before commencing business.
(11) The amounts per share payable on application and allotment.
(12) The total directors' share qualification, if any; and
(13) The date of the certificate to commence business.
(II.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1902 which filed a prospectus, but to which certificates to commence business have not been granted, stating the particulars specified in (1.) so far as they are applicable.
(III.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1902, which filed a declaration that the Company does 'not issue any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares.'
(IV.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1902, which have not filed a prospectus or a declaration that the Company 'does not issue any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares,' and stating the particulars specified in (1.) so far as they are applicable.
(V.) Of the Companies which were dissolved or struck off the register during the year 1902.
(VI.) Of the total number of companies dissolved during the year 1902 (1) by order of Court; (2) after voluntary liquidation; and (3) pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of The Companies Act, 1880, and Section 26 of the Companies Act, 1900.
(VII.) Of the total number and nominal paid-up and considered as paid-up capital of the Companies registered during the year 1902 in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin respectively, distinguishing limited companies from unlimited, and companies registered with a nominal capital from companies registered without such capital.
(VIII.) Of the total number and paid-up capital, including the amounts considered as paid on vendors and other shares, of all companies having a share capital which were on the register on the 30th day of April, 1903, except such companies as were in course of liquidation or removal from the register under the provisions of Section 7 of The Companies Act, 1880, and Section 26 of The Companies Act, 1900.
(IX.) Of the total number and nominal capital of the companies registered in England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, in every year since the commencement of The Companies Act, 1862 to 1902, inclusive.
(X.) Of the fees and capital duty paid in respect of Registered Companies during the year 1902."—(*Mr Gerald Balfour*) 1155

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND).—Return ordered, "showing (1) the names of permanent officials of the Department on the 1st day of May, 1903; (2) description of office; (3) salary and travelling expenses; (4) date of appointment and previous employment; (5) tenure of office:"

"And, similar Return of officials employed by the various County Councils in Ireland in carrying out the provisions of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act."—(*Mr. McGovern*) 1157

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

LONDONDERRY AND LOUGH SWILLY RAILWAY—ERECTION OF STATION AT PENNYBURN.—Question, Mr. McFadden (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Elliot 1157

BALANCE OF MONEY COLLECTED FOR RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN 1844.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas ... 1158

HASTINGS LIST OF VOTERS—SURCHARGE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITORS.—Question, Mr. Freeman Thomas (Hastings); Answer, Mr. Walter Long ... 1158

APPLICATION FOR POLICE COURT AT DUNBLANE.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1159

DELIVERY OF LETTERS AT VALENTIA ISLAND.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1159

EARLY CLOSING OF STRAFFAN POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Leamy (Kildare, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1159

DISMISSAL OF A BELFAST POST OFFICE EMPLOYEE.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1160

DELAY IN BELFAST MAILS.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1160

POST OFFICE SECOND DIVISION CLERKS.—Question, Mr. Kimber (Wandsworth); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1160

PUNISHMENT OF DUBLIN POSTMEN FOR MIS-DELIVERY OF LETTERS.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1161

UNAPPOINTED POSTMEN PERFORMING DUTY IN DUBLIN POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Nannetti; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1161

POSTAL DELAYS BETWEEN LONDON AND EDINBURGH.—Question, Mr. D. A. Tohmas; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1162

EXTENSION OF THE MALL—STATUE OF KING CHARLES I.—Question, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 1162

REPAYMENT TO DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL OF INTEREST ON BUNCRANA AND CARNDONAGH RAILWAY GUARANTEED SHARES.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Elliot 1162

PAYMENT OF GRANT TO CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL, BLACKPOOL.—Question, Mr. Harwood (Bolton); Answer, Sir William Anson 1163

INSUBORDINATION ON H.M.S. "DRAKE."—Question, Mr. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1164

INCREASED DINING ACCOMMODATION IN DEVONPORT DOCKYARD.—Question, Mr. Duke (Plymouth); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1164

QUALIFIED NURSES IN WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES.—Question, Mr. Talbot (Oxford University); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1164

PAYMENT OF REBATE ON CORN.—Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1165

ISSUE AND PAYMENT OF EXCHEQUER BONDS.—Mr. Stuart Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1165

INCOME TAX—ADDRESSES OF PEOPLE TO WHOM MONEY HAS BEEN LENT.—Question, Mr. Groves (Salford, S.); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1165

ALIEN IMMIGRATION COMMISSION REPORT.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1166

INDIA—CONVERSION OF PROPERTY OF NATIVE STATES INTO CASH.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 1167

SUSPENSION OF THE RULING CHIEF OF PANNA.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 1167

REVISION OF IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS' PENSION FUND.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1168

DELAY IN ERECTION OF LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN THE STRABANE NO. 2 RURAL DISTRICT.—Question, Mr. McFadden; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1168

BOYLE UNION RATE COLLECTOR.—Questions, Mr. James O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.) and Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham... 1169

ATTENDANCES IN IRISH SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1169

IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION—CLOSING OF BOOK STORES.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1170

DRAINAGE OF BLACK RIVER, MOHILL—IMPOSITION OF SPECIAL RATE.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1170

EXPENDITURE ON ROADS AND NEW WORKS IN LONGFORD RURAL DISTRICT.—Questions, Mr. Tully and Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1171

MARE SHOWS IN COUNTY LEITRIM.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1172

BORROWING POWERS OF BOYLE TOWNSHIP.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1173

BUNCRANA SEWAGE SCHEME.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1173

CASE OF POISONING IN MARYBOROUH PRISON.—Question, Dr. MacDonnell (Queen's County, Leix); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1174

EXPENDITURE IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.—Question, Colonel Long (Worcestershire, Evesham); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1174

ALIEN IMMIGRATION.—Question, Mr. Forde Ridley (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1175

FISCAL INQUIRY—CONDITION OF WORKING CLASSES.—Question, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1175

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

THE MAINTENANCE OF TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Questions, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) and Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1175

H.M.S. "Minerva's" Launch—Damage to Fishing Boat.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1176

Rosyth Naval Base.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1177

Rainfall in India.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing.) 1178

The Sugar Convention.—Questions, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) and Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Elliot, Durham) 1178

Church Schools—Provision of Prayer Books.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 1180

Appointments under the Irish Land Bill. — Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1180

Upper Masserene Drainage Tax. — Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin (Kilkenny, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham... 1180

Aghalee Labourers' Cottages.—Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1181

Gun Licences in County Galway.—Question, Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1182

Irish Telephone Service.—Questions, M. J. F. X O'Brien (Cork) and Mr. William Abraham (Cork Co., N.E.); Answers, The Postmaster General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1182

Fiscal Inquiry.—Questions, Mr. Harwood (Bolton); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1183

Alien Immigration.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1184

Sheep Scab Bill.—Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to 1184

Town Councils (Scotland) Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to. 1184

Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to. 1184

Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to. 1185

Message from the Lords.—That they have agreed to Revenue Bill, without Amendment.

Amendments made by this House to the Amendments and the Consequential Amendments to Irish Land Bill, without Amendment, and do not insist on their Amendments to which this House has disagreed.

That they have agreed to: Consequential Amendment to Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, without Amendment.

That they have agreed to: Public Buildings Expenses Bill, Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2) Bill, Patent Office Extension Bill, without Amendment.

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Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill, with Amendments.

Amendment to Amendments to: County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill, without Amendment.

Light Load Line: That they communicate Copy of Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships in the present session of Parliament, together with the Minutes of evidence, Proceedings of the Committee, etc. ... 1185

KITCHEN AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS (HOUSE OF COMMONS).—First Report brought up and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 355.] ... 1185

EAST INDIAN REVENUE ACCOUNTS.—Order for Committee read.

The Secretary of State for India (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) ... 1185

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair (for Committee on East Indian Revenue Accounts)."

Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe) ... 1210
Sir John Rolleston (Leicester) ... 1211

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'that,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House is of opinion that, in view of the satisfactory Indian Budgets in the current and recent years, the duties imposed in 1894–5 on manufactured goods imported into India should be abolished.'"—(*Mr. Shackleton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of Question."

The Under Secretary of State for India (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) ... 1218
Mr. Theodore Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe) ... 1228
Mr. Herbert Whiteley (Ashton-under-Lyne) ... 1230
Mr. Harwood (Bolton) ... 1230
Lieut-Colonel George Kemp (Lancashire, Heywood) ... 1232
Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham) ... 1232
Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) ... 1234

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 98; Noes, 30. (Division List No. 263.)

Main Question again proposed.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.) ... 1235
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) ... 1244
The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) .. 1250
Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.) ... 1254

And it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [13th August], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair (for Committee on East India Revenue Accounts)."

Mr. Herbert Roberts ... 1254
Sir William Rattigan (Lanarkshire, N.E.) ... 1256

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Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.) 1257
Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central) 1262
Lieut.-Colonel George Kemp 1265
Sir Michael Foster (London University) 1267
Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland) 1269
Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton) 1270
Dr. Shipman (Northampton) 1272
Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.) 1273
Mr. Osmond Williams (Merionethshire) 1273
Mr. Compton Rickett (Scarborough) 1274
Lord George Hamilton 1275
Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) 1279

Question put, and agreed to.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it appears from the Accounts presented to Parliament that in 1901-2 the revenue of India amounted to £76,344,525, the expenditure charged against revenue to £71,394,282, and the capital expenditure not charged to revenue to £4,071,152.—(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

Resolution to be reported.

Military Lands Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 1280

Penal Servitude Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 1280

Alkali Etc., Works Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 1280

Poor Prisoners Defence Bill.—Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to 1280

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.—Resolved, That this House do meet To-morrow at Ten of the Clock.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood*) 1280

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST, 1903.

RETURNS REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES (ANNUAL).—No. 394 Turks and Caicos Islands. Report for 1902 ... 1281

BOILER EXPLOSIONS.—Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, with appendices (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 1254]) 1281

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE AND INDUSTRY.—Memoranda, statistical tables, and charts prepared in the Board of Trade with reference to various matters bearing on British and foreign trade and industrial conditions.
Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie upon the Table 1281

PREFERENTIAL AND RETALIATORY DUTIES.—Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of Wednesday last), and to be printed. (No. 220) 1281

SUBSIDIES TO SHIPPING COMPANIES.—Returns respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of yesterday), and to be printed. (No. 221) ... 1281

SOUTH AFRICA (SHIPMENT OF RAILS).—Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of yesterday), and to be printed. (No. 222)... 1281

LOCOMOTIVES ACT, 1865.—Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of yesterday), and to be printed 1281

Military Lands Bill..—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to 1281

Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to 1281

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill.—Brought from the Commons. Read 1^{a}. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 2^{a} (*The Earl of Selborne*). Committee negatived. Bill read 3^{a}, and passed 1282

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

COMMISSION.—The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

1. Consolidated Fund (Appropriation).
2. London Education.
3. Marriage Legalisation.
4. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.
5. Railways (Electrical Power).
6. South African Loan and War Contribution.
7. Military Works.
8. Public Works Loans.
9. Isle of Man (Customs).
10. Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2).
11. Public Buildings Expenses.
12. Expiring Laws Continuance.
13. Revenue.
14. Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment.
15. Poor Prisoners' Defence.
16. County Courts Jurisdiction Extension.
17. Motor Cars.
18. Burgh Police (Scotland),
19. Town Councils (Scotland).
20. Sheep Scab.
21. Irish Land.
22. Employment of Children.
23. Military Lands.
24. Marine Store Dealers (Ireland).
25. Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Orders Confirmation.
26. Lerwick Harbour Improvements Act, 1877, Amendment Order Confirmation.
27. Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmrtion.
28. Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation.
29. Patent Office (Extension).
30. South Staffordshire Tramways.
31. Liverpool University.
32. Bradford Corporation.
33. Bury and District Joint Water Board.
34. Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways.
35. Salford Corporation.

36. Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power.
37. North Western Electricity and Power Gas.
38. Hastings Harbour.
39. Hastings Harbour District Railway.
40. Scottish Central Electric Power.
41. Mid Yorkshire Tramways.
42. Bangor Corporation.
43. South-Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway.
44. Ebbw Vale Improvement.
45. Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation.
46. Dover Corporation.
47. Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board.
48. Stroud and District Tramways.
49. Erith Tramways and Improvement.
50. Great Central Railway.
51. Gateshead Corporation.
52. South Yorkshire Joint Railways.
43. North-Eastern Railway.
54. Sheffield Corporation.
55. Cork Harbour.
56. Hainault Forest.
57. Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway.
58. Coventry Electric Tramways.
59. Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway.
60. Croydon and District Electric Tramways.
61. Ulster and Connaught Light Railways.
62. North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply 1282

THE KING'S SPEECH.—His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord High Chancellor (in pursuance of His Majesty's Command).

Then a Commission for proroguing Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said—

> *My Lords and Gentlemen,*
>
> By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's name, and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Monday the Second day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Monday the Second day of November next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST, 1903.

The House met at Ten of the Clock.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT LOAD LINE.—Communicated Paper [presented 13th August]; to be printed. [No. 356] 1287

BOILER EXPLOSIONS ACTS, 1882 AND 1890.—Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1287

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th August; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 357] 1287

TEACHERS' PENSION FUND (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Report on the Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Fund (Ireland) on the 31st December 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table, List of the Bills, Reports, Estimates, and Accounts and Papers printed by order of the House, and of Papers presented by Command, Session 1903, with a General Alphabetical Index thereto, 27th Parliament, Fourth Session, 3rd Edward VII., 17th February, 1903, to 14th August, 1903; to be printed. [No. 358] 1289

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

SHIPMENTS OF WELSH COAL TO THE FAR EAST.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1288

PRODUCE OF UNITED KINGDOM SUPPLIED FOR WAR PURPOSES IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Whitley Thomson (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1288

COMMISSIONS IN KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES FOR VOLUNTEERS.—Question, Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1289

VETERINARY DOCTORS—THE ARMY VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. William M'Killop (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1289

CONDITION OF ARTILLERY HORSES EXPOSED TO WEATHER AT TRAWSFYNYDD CAMP, MERIONETHSHIRE.—Question, Mr. Osmond Williams (Merionethshire); Answer, Mr. Brodrick... 1290

AUTUMN CRUISE OF CHANNEL SQUADRON.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1290

ERECTION OF BUOY ON TUNS BANK, LOUGH FOYLE.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1290

ALLEGED DESERTION FROM STEAMSHIP "ROMFORD" AT MADAGASCAR.—Question, Mr. Robson (South Shields); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1291

DELAY IN TELEGRAM TO COLOMBO.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1291

APPROXIMATE VALUES OF BRITISH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 1292

LOSS ON WORKING OF PACIFIC CABLE.—Question, Captain Clive (Herefordshire, Ross); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1293

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) ACT.—WORKING OF SECTION 17, SUB-SECTION (a).—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1294

ERECTION OF GOODS SHED AT RASHENNY STATION.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1295

ASSIMILATION OF SALARIES IN IRISH AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1295

SALE OF GLEBE LANDS AT MAGHERY, COUNTY DONEGAL.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1295

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PIER AT BUNCRANA, ON LOUGH SWILLY.—Question, Mr. O Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1296

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EVICTIONS ON THE MASSAREEN ESTATE, COUNTY LOUTH.—Question, Mr. Nolan (Louth, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1296

COMMISSIONS IN THE REGULAR ARMY—REGULATIONS FOR MILITIA OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1296

CLERKS IN THE HIGH COURTS OF JUSTICE—AGE LIMIT—EXTENSION TO IRELAND.—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork County, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Elliot 1297

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill [THIRD READING].—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this Bill be now read a third time."

Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 1297
Mr. Robson (*South Shields*) 1301
Mr. Broadhurst (*Leicester*) 1302
Mr. George White (*Norfolk, N.W.*) 1303
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Sir William Anson, Oxford University*) 1307
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 1312
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 1314
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 1321
Mr. Winston Churchill (*Oldham*) 1327
Sir Wilfrid Lawson (*Cornwall, Camborne*) 1332
Mr. Murphy (*Kerry, E.*) 1333
Mr. Nolan (*Louth, S.*) 1335
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 1335
Mr. Delany (*Queen's County, Ossory*) 1336
Mr. Markham (*Nottinghamshire, Mansfield*) 1337

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, without Amendment. ... 1338

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and the Royal Assent was given to a number of Bills. (See page 1282.)

And afterwards His Majesty's most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR (in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands).

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's name, and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Monday, the Second day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Monday the Second day of November next.

End of the Fourth Session of the 27th Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the third year of the Reign of His Majesty, King Edward VII.

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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

FOURTH SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, IN THE
THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

TENTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 6*th August*, 1903.

NEW PEERS.

Sir EDWARD LEVY-LAWSON, Baronet, having been created Baron Burnham of Hall Barn, in the parish of Beaconsfield, in the county of Buckingham, was (in the usual manner) introduced.

MICHAEL BIDDULPH, Esquire, having been created Baron Biddulph of Ledbury, in the county of Hereford, was (in the usual manner) introduced.

GEORGE THOMAS JOHN SOTHERON-ESTCOURT, Esquire, having been created Baron Estcourt of Estcourt, in the parish of Shipton-Moyne, in the county of Gloucester, and of Darrington in the West Riding of the county of York, was (in the usual manner) introduced.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill. Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Ireland Development Grant Bill; Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Order Confirmation Bill; Lerwick Harbour Improvements Act, 1877, Amendment Order Confirmation Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

South Shields Corporation Bil. Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

East Ham Improvement Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, with an Amendment; the said Amendment considered and agreed to.

Wick and Pulteney Harbours Order Confirmation Bill. Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [No. 195]; Lerwick Harbour Improvements Act, 1877, Amendment Order Confirmation Bill [No. 196]. Read 1ª; to be printed, and (pursuant to the Private Legislature Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899) deemed to have been read 2ª (*The Lord Balfour*); and reported from the Committee; and to be read 3ª on Monday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COMMERCIAL No. 7 (1903).

Reports from His Majesty's representatives on navigable inland waterways in Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

PRISONS (IRELAND).

Twenty-fifth Report of the General Prisons Board (Ireland), 1902-1903.

INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY AND OTHERS.

Agreement, dated 1st August, 1903, between the Admiralty and the Board of Trade and the International Mercantile Marine Company and the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Frederick Leyland and Company, 1900, Limited, the British and North Atlantic Steam Navigation Company, Limited, the Mississippi and Dominion Steamship Company, Limited, the Atlantic Transport Company, Limited, and the International Navigation Company, Limited.

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).

Thirty-fifth report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Records, for the year 1902.

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Seventeenth annual report of the inspectors, for 1902.

SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Forty-second annual report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (England and Wales) for 1902.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

General report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1902.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Reported, without Amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

IRELAND DEVELOPMENT GRANT BILL.

Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Earl of Denbigh*). (No. 194.)

THE STANDING ORDERS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, I beg to move certain Amendments in the Standing Orders of the House, as is usual at the end of the session. My noble friend the Minister for Agriculture asked me to move certain Amendments that would give effect to the proposed legislation transferring the Fisheries to the Board of Agriculture, but I regret that as the Bill has not yet become an Act it is impossible to do that. I take it that as the Board of Agriculture will have all the functions that the Board of Trade have now with regard to Fisheries, it is quite clear that any notices that are sent to the Board of Trade will be immediately forwarded to the Board of Agriculture in the natural course of things, and as soon as possible next session the Standing Orders will, of course, be amended. The first Amendment of the Standing Orders on the Paper refers to the deposit of certain maps in the case of Bills for the taking of water supply. It is an Amendment that has been asked for by the Local Government Board, and it seems to me to be a very reasonable one. The second Amendment secures, in cases where a parish has no parish council and plans and sections have only to be deposited with the clerk of the district council, that they shall also now be deposited with the chairman of the parish meeting. The next Amendment is of rather more importance. When Lord Newton called attention some time ago to the delay that took place in the progress of legislation at the beginning of every session, I undertook—and I had intended to take this course for a long time—to see if, with regard to private Bills, the period at the beginning of the session, when nothing could be done, could not be shortened. The object of this Amendment of the Standing Orders has that in view. Instead of regulating the period for depositing petitions according to the Second Reading of Bills, a fixed date is taken. In the House of Commons the date is 12th February. As I am told that it would cause confusion if the petitions on all Bills presented to Parliament were taken on the same day, I have made it a week later in the case of petitions to this House. All petitions in respect to Bills which are presented for the the first time to the House will have to be lodged by 19th February. I believe that will gain us certainly ten days, and the Opposed Bills Committees will be able easily to start work in the first week in March in future sessions. These are the only important matters to which I need refer, and I beg leave to move that the Amendments be agreed to.

Moved, "That the Standing Orders be amended as follows—

'New Standing Order: 25c. Where, under the powers of any Bill, any water may be taken, collected, or impounded for the purpose of a water supply, the Promoters shall, on or before the 30th November, deposit at the Office of the Local Government Board, and also at the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, an Ordnance map on the scale of 6 inches to a mile, showing by a distinguishing mark the position of each reservoir, well, conduit, or other work proposed to be authorised by the Bill; and where the proposed source of supply is a river, stream, or lake, an Ordnance map on the scale of not less than 1 inch to a mile, showing by a clearly marked line the catchment area or gathering ground from which the waters are derived. Where, under the powers of any Bill, it is proposed to supply with water any area not previously included within the Promoters' limits of supply, the Promoters shall similarly deposit an Ordnance map on the scale of 1 inch to a mile, showing respectively the existing limits of supply and the area proposed to be added thereto.

'29. Where, under the powers of any Bill, any work is intended to be made, maintained, varied, extended or enlarged, or any lands or houses may be taken or used compulsorily, or an improvement charge may be imposed, a copy of so much of the said plans and sections as relates to any of the areas hereinafter mentioned, together with a copy of so much of the book of reference as relates to such area, shall, on or before the 30th day of November, be deposited with the officer respectively hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, in the case of —(*d*) Any parish in England or Wales comprised in a rural district and not having a parish council, with the chairman of the parish meeting and with the clerk of the district council.

'92. No petition praying to be heard upon the merits against any Local Bill or Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be received by this House unless the same is presented by being deposited in the Private Bill Office before three o'clock in the afternoon, in the case of Local Bills on or before the 19th of February, and in the cases of Provisional Order Confirmation Bills or Bills presented on petition and originating in this House, on or before the seventh day after the day on which such Bill has been read a second time.

'105*a*. Where any body of persons corporate or unincorporate sufficiently representing a particular trade, business, or interest in any district to which any Railway Bill relates, petition against the Bill, alleging that such trade, business, or interest will be injuriously affected by the rates and fares proposed to be authorised by the Bill, it shall be competent for the Select Committee to whom the Bill is referred, if they think fit, to hear the petitioners or their counsel or agents and witnesses on such allegation against the Bill, or any part thereof, or against the rates and fares proposed to be authorised by the same.

'105*c*. Where the council of any administrative county or county borough or being a Joint Committee of Councils of administrative counties or county boroughs petition against a Bill, alleging that such county or county borough or some part thereof will be injuriously affected by the Bill, it shall be competent for the Select Committee to whom the Bill is referred, if they think fit, to hear such petitioners or their counsel or agents and witnesses on such allegation against the Bill or any part thereof.' "—(*The Earl of Morley.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Standing Orders amended accordingly, and to be printed as amended. (No. 197.)

IRISH LAND BILL.

House in Committee (according to order).

[The Earl of Morley in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

The Earl of ARRAN, who had several Amendments on the Paper to Clause 1, intimated that he intended to withdraw them with a view to bringing them up on the Report stage.

Amendments, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord CLONBROCK moved to insert after the words, "If the foregoing provisions are not complied with, the Land Commission may" the following words, "in the case of a holding exceptionally situated," so as to provide that in such special cases the Commission might—subject to the limitations of the Land Purchase Act—sanction the advance. He said that the Amendment did not interfere in any way with the principle of the Bill, nor with the arrangements in Clause 1, as it at present stood. It was only intended to make things clear, and was put forward with a view of increasing the probability of the correct working of the Bill. Subsection 2 was introduced to meet exceptional cases, and, as the noble Duke in charge of the Bill had stated on the Second Reading, it was only intended to apply to inferior classes of holdings. His object in moving the Amendment was to make this quite clear. Seeing the maximum reduction in the "zone" relaxed, the smaller class of tenant purchasers might be induced to press for more favourable terms, which would have to be refused by the landlords. He feared that if the Amendment was not accepted there was a danger of a renewal of agitation. He was in Ireland recently, and everyone to whom he spoke on the subject expressed dissatisfaction at the relaxation of the "zone." He trusted the Government would accept the Amendment. The second Amendment standing in his name, which he would move after the first had been dealt with, was in the interests of the remainder-man, who might also suffer severely, and in the interests of the public at large.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 5, after the word 'Commission' to insert the words 'in the case of a holding exceptionally circumstanced.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): The Government do not think that the Amendment suggested by the noble Lord would be any improvement upon the terms of the clause. We fully believe that the cases which will come under this sub-section will be exceptional. They will be exceptional for the reason that such cases will be carried through with much more delay and difficulty than the cases which come under the zone, inasmuch as in cases where less than the minimum reduction is agreed upon it will be necessary that the Estates Commissioners should enter into a full examination of the case with the object of seeing that the security for the Government is sufficient. In the other class of cases, where the reduction exceeds the maximum reduction provided for in the zone, similar examination by the Commissioners will be necessary for the protection of those, besides the owner, who have an interest in the estate, and on such examination all who have any interest in the estate, will have a claim to be heard. We believe, therefore, that in these circumstances the case will be exceptional, but nothing would be gained by requiring the Estates Commissioners to make a specific declaration that the case was an exceptional one. The circumstances of the exceptional character of the case are proved, in the first place, by the parties having arrived at an agreement outside the zone, and in the next place by the fact that the Commissioners have assented to such an agreement, and have advanced the money upon it. That is far more effective security for what the noble Earl desires—namely, that these cases shall only be treated exceptionally, than any words such as he suggests should be put into the clause. The words "exceptionally circumstanced" have no legal significance, and could have no binding effect upon the Commissioners. We consider also that the Amendment of the noble Lord might very possibly have the effect of acting prejudicially to the landlords, because it would give a handle to anyone who wished to create an agitation to ask that any case which could be ascertained to resemble that which had been declared to be an exceptional one by the Commissioners should be treated in exactly the same way. We believe that the words will be no protection to landlords, but, on the other hand, might act prejudicially. Therefore I regret we are unable to accept the Amendment.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN hoped the noble Lord would not press the Amendment because it seemed to him that it would rather defeat his own object, which was to make the matter clearer. The Amendment would tend rather to confuse the position. The clause as it now stood was the result of a compromise arrived at in the other House of Parliament, and as it now stood it seemed to him to be very plain. All the transactions which came within the zone were sanctioned without any inquiry, but if they fell without the zone, they would have to be inquired into and settled after hearing all the persons interested, and if the Commissioners were satisfied that the price agreed upon was equitable. That was perfectly clear and distinct, but if the Commissioners had also to decide whether a holding was exceptionally circumstanced or not, he did not know how they would do it. He did not know what was meant by "exceptionally circumstanced," and it was obvious that the Commissioners would have to make an exhaustive inquiry to arrive at any decision upon that point. He hoped the Amendment would be withdrawn.

*THE EARL OF WESTMEATH said that he, on the other hand, would urge his noble friend to press the Amendment. Clause 1 was now in an entirely different position from what it was when the Bill was introduced. The noble Earl who had just sat down had used the word "compromise," but he failed to find in any dictionary that that word was defined to be the giving way of one side where it had got nothing. He would like to see the clause restored to its original form, but at this late period of the session he did not think it would be wise to move an Amendment with that object. The Amendment of his noble friend was a very reasonable one, and would make it more difficult for people to go outside the zones. He and others who lived in the West of Ireland believed that great attempts would be made to make this the rule and not the exception, and therefore they regarded the Amendment as affording them a certain amount of protection. The Bill, in the eyes of many, had been entirely spoiled by the, to them, unnecessary concessions of the Chief Secretary.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE) did not think the noble Lord who spoke last answered the dilemma put to the House by the noble Duke. The noble Lord had made his object perfectly clear. It was to obtain some security that these transactions outside the zones would not be permitted unless exceptional circumstances were really present; but what security would the words proposed by the noble Lord give him? If the words were added to the clause, the Land Commissioners would then be in this position—they would have to specify what the exceptional circumstances were. They might do so in general language. They might say, "We regard this case as an exceptional case, and, on the whole, it does not seem to us to be one which falls within the scope of the zones." That would not help noble Lords in the least. It would leave them where they were. But supposing they went further and said that it was an exceptional case, because of the situation of the estate, the character of the soil, its inaccessibility, or reasons of that sort. The moment such a decision had been promulgated by the Land Commission, a precedent would have been set up which would be very inconvenient to other vendors of similarly circumstanced estates, and it would follow that in all similar cases, transactions outside the limits of the zones would be permissible. That he did not think would be regarded as in accordance with the views of noble Lords who, like the mover of the Amendment, desired to restrict, as far as possible, transactions outside the limits of the zones.

LORD CLONBROCK pointed out that in his Amendment "specific" grounds were stated, not "general" grounds. What he was anxious about was that these transactions should be the exception and not the rule, and he was afraid that, especially in his own part of Ireland, where agitation had been rife in the not very distant past, the smaller class of tenants would imagine that it was the intention of the Act that the zones should be relaxed, not only in exceptional cases, but in a more general manner. He wished the specific grounds to be stated by the Commissioners in order to discourage any belief that the zone limits could be relaxed freely. He felt compelled to press his Amendment.

***THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE)** did not think the words which Lord Clonbrock proposed to introduce would, or could, effect the object the noble Lord had in view. The word "exceptional" was, after all, vague and indefinite; it had no precise meaning. The Estates Commissioners might declare that, having heard all parties interested, they found an exceptional case. What assistance would that be to his noble friend?

LORD CLONBROCK: They would have to state the specific grounds.

***LORD ASHBOURNE** said they might possibly say that, having heard all the parties, and having weighed and balanced the evidence, they had come to the conclusion that it was desirable in that case to make an exception, and to deal with it outside the zones. Where would his noble friend be then? He would not have advanced a step towards obtaining the information he desired, and yet the Estates Commissioners would appear to have satisfied the terms of the noble Lord's Amendment. In those circumstances, he hoped the Amendment would be withdrawn.

LORD CLONBROCK said that he was, of course, unable to say what the legal meaning of the word "exceptional" was, but he thought the terms of the Amendment would be perfectly understood by the general public, and would show that they could only hope for this exceptional financial treatment in exceptional circumstances.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said the Bill was an entirely voluntary measure, and in theory, at least, the vendor must be at liberty, if he was the absolute owner of the property, to sell it to anyone he liked, or to give it away. The object of the limit was to prevent improvident sales and to protect other people interested in the estates. Surely the Bill as it stood was perfectly logical, and met the whole case, because it said that if the owner proposed to sell at a price lower than the limit in the Bill, the Land Commission would have to satisfy themselves that it was not an improvident bargain, and that the other persons interested in the estate were not damaged. He thought it would be a great pity to disturb the Clause as it stood by the insertion of the Amendment.

On Question

Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 58; Not-Contents, 59.

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Clonbrock L. [*Teller.*]
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Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*)
Grey de Ruthyn, L.
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Wentworth, L.
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LORD CLONBROCK said that considerable importance was attached to the next Amendment standing in his name, and he hoped the noble Duke would be able to accept it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 10, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert the words 'provided that if any person interested in the estate makes application to the Land Commission in the prescribed manner, the order sanctioning the advance shall set forth the specific grounds for dealing with the case under this sub-section instead of under the foregoing provisions of this section.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am advised that the wording of this Amendment would not effect its apparent object. The object of the Amendment appears to be to provide that the Land Commission, where they sanction an advance outside the "zones," are to state their reasons for considering the price equitable; but the Amendment, as drafted, would merely require the Land Commission to state the reasons for dealing with the case under the second sub-section, and the reasons would, of course, be that the advance was not within the zone. Although we object to the Amendment from the point of view of drafting, we also object to it in substance, partly for the reason which I have already stated, that in our opinion it would not be to the advantage but would be prejudicial to the interests of a great many of the landlords selling under this clause. We think that if the Commissioners were compelled, as the noble Lord desires, to state specific reasons for treating a sale as an exceptional case, those specific reasons would be taken advantage of by any one who wished to agitate in the direction of reducing the instalments beyond the limits provided in the zones; and if in any case any circumstances analogous to those which had already been decided by the Commissioners could be brought forward that would be made the ground for a reduction of price beyond that provided throughout the zone. As the Bill stands the Commissioners will, in every case, have to exercise an independent judgment on the circumstances of each individual case. If, however, they had been compelled to fetter themselves by giving reasons in a previous decision they might find it very difficult to escape from giving a similar decision in any case brought within the purview of that decision. I think it would be undesirable to fetter them in that way.

LORD CLONBROCK thought that every man would imagine that he had a right to this special treatment, and that the adoption of the clause as it stood would lead to agitation in every case, which was seriously to be deprecated. He would prefer agitation in a limited area rather than all over the country. The Amendment was one of great importance, and he could not accept as satisfactory the reasons given by the noble Duke for refusing to accept it.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said the sub-section as it read only provided that the remainder man had a right to be heard. He was to receive no grounds for the decision arrived at. If the Amendment was accepted, the remainder man would get some reason or other given in the case where he objected to treatment being allowed outside the zones. The noble Duke seemed to think that it would not pay the landlords as a body to have publicity in connection with these cases. He thought that would be a very good argument if the noble Duke was always going to be in power, but there were two Parties in the State, and they felt very strongly that as the Estates Commissioners were to be Executive officers they ought to know what they were doing and the reasons that were actuating them in their decisions. They were afraid that some day they might get, as they had often had before, a Chief Secretary who was not only not friendly, but very unfriendly, to their interests, and that the Estates Commissioners would be encouraged to effect sales below the limits. For that reason they felt that the more publicity they had the better. He hoped his noble friend would press his Amendment to a division.

*Lord ASHBOURNE asked the noble Earl who had just sat down to consider the class of opinion he might possibly get if the Amendment were adopted. The Estates Commissioners would be told by the Amendment to state the specific grounds. They might seek to do that by saying that, having regard to the provisions of the sub-section, and having heard everyone who had a right to be heard, they had come to the conclusion that it was a case in which they could relax the zone limits. The Estates Commissioners in the discharge of their duties were necessarily given the widest possible discretion. If the parties were dissatisfied with the grounds of a decision the Amendment would give them no remedy.

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE pointed out that as the Bill now stood they were not called upon to give any grounds for their decision at all. If they gave the grounds, and those grounds were insufficient, he wanted an opportunity of attacking them in Parliament on those grounds. He wanted that opportunity of attacking them if they did not carry out the Act fairly.

Lord INCHIQUIN contended that if the Estates Commissioners gave a decision in the form suggested by the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor for Ireland, they would not be complying with the provisions of the Amendment, which required that they should set forth the specific grounds for dealing with the case under the sub-section.

Lord MACNAGHTEN did not agree with the Lord Chancellor for Ireland that the answer which the noble and learned Lord had put into the mouths of the Commissioners would be a good answer. He thought it would be an evasive answer. He believed that if the Estates Commissioners were told by Parliament to give the specific grounds on which their decision was founded, they would do their best to comply with the direction.

The Duke of MANCHESTER asked if it was not the case that the Judges of the High Court gave their reasons for their decisions. If it was so, he did not see why the Estates Commissioners should not give their reasons.

Lord ORANMORE and BROWNE said the Amendment was moved for the purpose of securing adherence, as far as possible, to the limits of the zone.

The Earl of ARRAN thought both parties had a right to know the facts on which the Commissioners based their decision.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: Before the Committee divides I should like to endeavour to explain a little more fully the grounds upon which we cannot accept the Amendment. My point is this. If the noble Lord who has just spoken sells an estate outside the zone, and the Commissioners are required to state the specific reasons for their decision, then the existence of those specific reasons would give a handle to the tenants on the neighbouring estates for agitating for the reduction of the terms in their case, though the real circumstances of the two might be different.

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Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)

Annaly, L.
Ardilaun, L.
Barrymore, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
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Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*)
Grey de Ruthyn, L.
Grinstead, L. (*E. Enniskillen.*)
Harlech, L.
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Dawnay. L. (*V Downe.*)
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
Emly, L.
Estcourt, L.
Forester, L.
James, L.
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Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
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Monk Bretton, L.
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Saye and Sele, L.
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Tweedmouth, L.
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THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN explained that the object of the Amendment standing in his name was to avoid throwing what appeared to him to be unnecessary work upon the Land Commission. He did not think their Lordships need be at all alarmed about the Bill operating too quickly, but he thought there was good cause for anxiety lest the wheels of the machinery might be clogged by the amount of work placed upon the authorities concerned. Sub-section 2 provided for protecting the interests of the remainder man, and, of course, that was perfectly right; but it appeared to him that the remainder man was really interested only in the amount of the purchase money, and that if the total sum of all the advances—*i.e.*, the whole of the purchase money—when equally divided amongst the various holdings fell within the limits, he was in no way affected. Take the case of an estate with two tenants upon it, each paying the same rent, but differently circumstanced. If both holdings were sold at a reduction, say, of 30 per cent., the transaction would be sanctioned at once; but if one sold at 20 per cent. and the other at 40 per cent. it could not be sanctioned. It would be unfortunate if on a large property the whole sale should be hung up indefinitely because the landlord found it not only desirable but absolutely necessary to make a reduction outside the limits to perhaps only a single tenant upon it. It was desirable to avoid throwing additional work on the Land Commission, and he hoped His Majesty's Government would see their way to accept the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 10, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert as a new sub-section, the words 'If by agreement between the owner of an estate and the tenants the whole number of tenants on any estate are willing to purchase at a sum, which in the aggregate if payable in purchase annuities represents a reduction of not less than 10 nor more than 30 per cent. per annum below the existing rent, the Land Commission shall sanction the advance and shall apportion the amounts payable according to the terms of agreement between the owner and the individual tenants.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not apprehend that this Amendment will in any way relieve the Estates Commissioners of any work. On the contrary, I am inclined to think it will very greatly increase their work. In fact, I am advised that in its present form the proposal would be unworkable; that it would be impossible for the Land Commission to apportion the amounts payable by the various tenants, and that litigation would be an inevitable result. But even if the Amendment could be put into a workable form it would be impossible for the Treasury to accept it, because it would very seriously impair the security on which the advance rests The noble Earl has given one example. I will venture to give another. He has taken an estate where there are two tenants, and has pointed out what would be the result in that case. I ask him to consider the case of an estate where there may be 51 tenants, an estate, say, of £1,000 a year divided between one tenancy of £500 and 50 tenancies of £10 each. In the event of a reduction of 30 per cent. being made in the instalments of those 50 tenants, and a reduction of only 10 per cent. on the £500 tenancy, it must be evident to my noble friend that the security of the Treasury for the advance would be very seriously impaired.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN could not see how his Amendment could lead to litigation. But, as the noble Duke had stated that it would seriously impair the security of the Treasury, he would not press it.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2.

*THE EARL OF WESTMEATH moved an Amendment to that part of the clause which provides that advances for purchase may be made to a person who was a tenant within twenty-five years of the passing of the Act, but who is not a tenant at the date of purchase. The noble Earl's Amendment was in the nature of a proviso exempting from the application of the sub-section holdings which on 1st January, 1903, were in the occupation of a tenant. He explained that he did not bring it forward on any private or personal grounds. It was an Amendment dictated by common honesty. Its object would, he thought, be evident to any one who had any knowledge of Irish questions. Their Lordships were aware that some years ago a land war of great violence was carried on in Ireland, and, unfortunately, a great many landlords were reduced to the necessity of evicting a large number of their tenants. He was, perhaps, not altogether an unsuitable person to bring this Amendment forward, because he had not had to evict a single tenant, and he lived on terms of perfect amity with his tenants. If the clause were passed without amendment, it would give an opportunity to the agitators to bring great pressure on the tenants of evicted holdings to surrender their holdings. The words he proposed to insert were not novel, because Sub-section 6 of Section 47 of the Act of 1896 contained almost the same words. He knew an estate where there were fifty planter tenants. They got on very well with their neighbours, and there was no desire to turn them out in order to restore the former occupants. But the clause as it stood was a direct encouragement to pressure being put on the unfortunate planters, and, if it was not amended, there would be every inducement to get rid of the planter tenants in order to put back the original tenants who, in consequence of a very dishonest campaign, were induced to think it better to leave their holdings than to pay their just debts. If landlords had not had anyone to come to their rescue it would have been a very serious matter. The planter tenants, at great risk to themselves, settled in the places from which the previous tenants had been evicted, and they had proved exceedingly law-abiding people. He confessed that he had no feeling against the old tenants being restored when it could be done without injustice to the present occupiers, the planter tenants. But he feared that there would be a great deal of pressure exercised by local agitators and by the small revolutionary bodies in the country which would reduce the planter tenants to a state of misery and drive them from their holdings. If Irish landlords turned their backs on these men now, after they had stood by them in their time of need, and left them to the tender mercies of their enemies, they would deserve worse treatment than they got under this Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 3, after the word 'person' to insert the words "and provided also that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any holding which, on the 1st day of January 1903, was in the occupation of a tenant.'"—(*The Earl of Westmeath.*)

*LORD ARDILAUN said this was to Irish landlords a matter of honour, and he did not think if noble Lords who were English landlords knew the case they would for a moment refuse to support the Amendment. He trusted the Government would not place the Irish landlords in the position of deserting those who had stood by them in the days of stress and trouble, and who were only now reaping the benefit of their industry and courage. The policy of eviction and replanting the vacant land was approved of by the Government and the Prime Minister of the day, and the present Prime Minister. He thought it would be an extraordinary thing if the Government, having approved of this policy at the time, were to place Irish landlords in the position of abandoning their "friendly tribes" and leaving them in danger, as the English Government had often done by friendly tribes in India, on the plains of the Soudan, in South Africa, and lastly, the landlords of Ireland.

*LORD BARRYMORE supported the Amendment on the grounds of common honesty and morality. The evicted tenants question, so far as it deserved to be settled, had been settled long ago, and he regretted that the matter was dealt with in this Bill. It was now brought forward again at the instigation of the Nationalist Members who, very properly from the Nationalist point of view, were anxious to do what they could to support the people who had got into trouble very largely through their fault. The tenants evicted at the time of the Plan of Campaign and at similar periods were only a small proportion of the evicted tenants in Ireland. But this clause applied to every man evicted for any reason whatever. The Amendment simply came to the support of the planters. It was said that the number of the evicted tenants was small, and that the whole question was a very small one. But the representatives of these men were appearing and would appear every day. Since this Bill was introduced he had had a request from a man to reinstate him in a grass farm from which his father was evicted fifty years ago. These men would claim to come back to the holdings which were theirs or their fathers'. They would bring pressure to bear on the unfortunate men who were in those holdings now, and there would be another very serious agitation. He hoped their Lordships would support the men who had risked their lives in the cause of law and order at a time when it was very important that law and order should be supported, and who were now living on their farms in peace and contentment.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said no one sitting on the Front Government Bench would call in question the motives with which the noble Lord moved this Amendment. This clause permitted advances to be made, amongst others, to persons who within twenty-five years before the passing of the Act were the tenants of holdings to which the Land Law Acts applied, and it would be idle to pretend that the provision was not inserted in the Bill for the purpose of giving a certain amount of facility for the restoration of evicted tenants to the farms which they once held. The noble Lord who moved the Amendnent feared that the result of the presence of this provision in the Bill would be that pressure and intimidation would be put upon men who at a very critical time became the occupants of the evicted farms—men whom they spoke of for convenience as planters, and that the result of that pressure would be to induce them to abandon the holdings of which they were at this moment in possession. He entirely agreed with what had been said by the noble Lord and by those who followed him, as to the sympathy and respect to which the planter tenants were entitled. They came forward at great personal risk at an extremely trying period in the history of the country, and took these holdings in the face of great and formidable opposition. He should be sorry to be a party to any arrangement which contemplated their abandonment or their extrusion from the holdings which they now occupied. He believed that view was universally accepted; it was a policy which had been proclaimed by the Party opposite, and by the Party with which he was connected; and he believed he was right in saying that in another place the Nationalist representatives of Ireland had formally intimated that it was their desire to discourage anything like the intimidation or persecution of these planter tenants.

How did the noble Lord propose to deal with this question? He proposed to earmark all the farms which were in the occupation of tenants on January 1st of this year, and to say that neither now nor hereafter should those farms be made use of for the purposes in question. That seemed to him a very far-reaching remedy, and one that went beyond the necessities of the case. In the first place, their Lordships should remember that there was no provision in the Bill by which it was possible to get rid, as such, of a planter tenant. Were the planter tenants, who had shown themselves to be men of great character and resolution, likely to surrender their farms in order to make way for the representatives of the evicted tenants? He did not think that it was at all likely, and there were many circumstances which would assist them in maintaining their position. In the first place, a transaction of the kind which the noble Lord so much apprehended could not take place without the concurrence of the landlord of the estate, and he hoped that no Irish landlord would willingly lend himself to a transaction the obvious object of which was to bring about the expulsion of the planter tenant and the substitution of an evicted tenant or his representative. But that was not all. In all these matters the Land Commission had very wide and extensive powers. The Land Commission had the power of refusing, if it thought proper, to define as an estate any land which for sufficient reasons it considered should not be sold under the provisions of the Bill; and he conceived that it would be their duty, in a case where notoriously there had been pressure or intimidation, to put a veto upon the transaction and not to allow it to proceed. The Congested Districts Board had somewhat similar powers, and, under the rules which governed its procedure, were able to refuse offers of land when it had reason to believe that those offers had been brought about by pressure or intimidation. But supposing, for the sake of argument, that the Land Commission failed to do what he conceived would be its duty. In such a case there remained the fact that the Estate Commissioners were subject to the control and supervision of the Irish Government, who would have something to say upon the matter. And if the Irish Government failed to put a check upon such proceedings he had no doubt that attention would be drawn to the matter in Parliament. Therefore he could not see that the planter tenants were in the insecure and perilous position which the noble Lord seemed to think.

But there was another reason for which he should greatly regret to see this Amendment carried. The noble Lord who moved the Amendment, not in his last speech, but in the one which he made earlier in the evening, had spoken in somewhat humorous terms of the compromise upon which this Bill was founded, but he trusted they would not allow themselves to forget that the Bill did represent the outcome of a compromise, which was not arrived at without very great difficulty. He should deeply regret to see that compromise disturbed by a vote in their Lordships' house. If this Bill had in his eyes one recommendation which commended it to him more than another, it was this—that they saw in it the possibility of the restoration of lasting peace and goodwill between the tenants and landlords of Ireland. Lord Barrymore, who spoke with an authority second to none upon Irish land questions, expressed his regret that the question of evicted tenants had been brought into the Bill at all; but surely, if the noble Lord followed, as no doubt he did, the discussions which took place elsewhere, he must know that this provision which contemplated the possibility of the restoration of the evicted tenants or their representatives, in suitable cases, to the holdings they once occupied, was an essential element in the compromise, and that if that element had been excluded, it was possible that the Bill might not at this moment be upon the Table of their Lordships' House. He felt as strongly as the noble Lord did the debt they owed to the planter tenants and the necessity of guarding their interests, but he did not think that in order to do so it was necessary to add to the Bill the Amendment which the noble Lord had moved.

THE EARL OF CREWE expressed the satisfaction which he and his colleagues on the Front Opposition Bench felt at the firm stand which the noble Marquess had taken against the Amendment. The planter tenants were of two kinds. There were, no doubt, some of these planter tenants who were genuine, reputable farmers, and it would be a monstrous thing if such men were likely to be disturbed. He did not believe that any attempt would be made to do so. On the other hand, there were a certain number of these planter tenants who were not comfortable where they were, and would be ready to make way for those who occupied the farms in former times, but any transaction of that kind would be absolutely prevented under the Amendment. He had heard the word "revolutionary" used, but he thought it was understood that a land peace now prevailed in Ireland. The tone of some of their Lordships differed from that which had been displayed by representative landlords in another place, and he feared that if the spirit which had now been displayed, were persisted in it might tend to make more difficult the settlement which it was hoped would be brought about by this Bill. No doubt noble Lords opposite were actuated by the highest possible motives, but in Ireland it would be said that there was a desire to pay out these evicted tenants for the trouble they had given in the past. If that was so, then good-bye to any satisfactory settlement of this question.

LORD CLONBROCK said his noble friend had disavowed any sort of feeling against the former tenants. On the contrary, they all had sympathy with them. They looked upon them as the unfortunate dupes of the leaders of an illegal conspiracy, and they would be very glad to see them placed in their old positions. But what they did object to was that they should be indemnified at the expense of the law-abiding men. He was glad to hear the noble Marquess say that he believed the Estates Commissioners would be guided in any decision they gave by the state of the country, and that where they believed any intimidation existed they would refuse to sanction the advance. But there was nothing about that in the Bill. If there was a provision of that kind in the Bill it would remove their objection. It had been said that the Bill was voluntary, but he had known many cases where men had given up grass farms nominally voluntarily, but it had been the result of deputations from the United Irish League. That was what he was afraid might happen again unless the Amendment was accepted. If any provision such as the noble Marquess had hinted at could be inserted in the Bill, they would be relieved of a great deal of anxiety. He objected to a compromise which involved in any way the desertion of those men who had stood by, not only the landlords, but the cause of law and order in most perilous times.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN could not conceive that pressure would be brought upon planters to leave their holdings. The noble Marquess had explained the various powers which might be used in their protection, and he thought their Lordships must attach some importance to the fact that in the other House of Parliament the acknowledged leaders of the Irish Parliamentary Party had given the most specific assurance that they had no desire that any planter, who had acquired a *bonâ fide* substantial interest in his holding, should be disturbed, and they would not under any circumstances sanction pressure being placed on him. They must, of course, take that assurance for what they considered it worth. He must say that to his mind it was worth a great deal. But there was another class of planters who might be not only content to leave their holdings but anxious to leave them, provided they could be given equally good holdings elsewhere, or adequate compensation in money. It must be acknowledged that though most of the evictions had taken place many years ago, and although there had been no particular pressure placed upon the planters of late, still in a great many cases their lot was not altogether a happy one. Surely it would be a great hardship upon those who were willing to go, if the Land Commission were precluded from assisting them to make amicable arrangements in that direction. He would be the last to support any hardship being inflicted upon men who had, in moments of great difficulty, taken evicted farms; but it would be lamentable if the happy condition of affairs that existed in Ireland now, and would, he hoped, continue when this Bill became law, was disturbed by keeping open a sore which was very small in its dimensions, but to which an enormous amount of sentiment attached in Ireland. He hoped that in these circumstances his noble friend would not press the Amendment. If he did press it, he would feel compelled to vote against it.

LORD ROBERTSON said this question was one of vital importance, and for this reason, that the general effect of the Bill, if passed, would unquestionably be to create in Ireland a certain dead level of society. It would to a large extent, whether they liked it or not, deplete Ireland of certain elements which had largely contributed to its prosperity and spirit. He deprecated, and would certainly vote against, every step in the Bill which increased that tendency. He thought it was of the greatest importance to Ireland that this Bill should not act as an instrument to sweep out what had hitherto been the loyal element in Ireland, and whether in the case of the landlords the class be rich, or whether in that of the planters they be poor, the House ought to be careful lest such a result ensued. At present there was no protection at all, good or bad, for the planter class against the operation of the Bill. The noble Marquess the Foreign Minister and the noble Earl who had just sat down, had referred in terms, which all would approve, to the present excellent spirit which, for a time at least, animated Irish politics. But he ventured to urge that this Bill ought to be one which would stand the strain and stress of bad weather; and they must make sure that should there be a sudden change of sentiment in Ireland, should turbulent spirits be abroad in stormy times, the Act would be strong enough to safeguard those interests Parliament was bound to protect. The present Government would not last for ever, might not last for long, and there might come in a Chief Secretary and a Lord Lieutenant under different auspices altogether. How could the working out of the Act in the spirit his Majesty's present Government desired be guaranteed? There might be a weak Government dependent upon the Nationalist vote, and would not the sails of administration swell with the wind of national feeling? The noble Marquess had referred to the protection which the planters had in the landlords and the Estates Commissioners. With regard to the landlords, there were in the Bill some very queer provisions by which individual landlords had the most direct inducement to realise and run away and care nothing further; and suppose they had a weak and impoverished landlord and *vis-a-vis* to him a stormy Nationalist feeling, what could be said of the fate of the planter being in the mind of the landlord at all when the transaction was entered into? As to the other protection, he pointed out that the Chief Secretary had emphasised that the Estates Commission would not be a judicial body which could stand up against the storm of public opinion, but it would be under the control of the Lord Lieutenant, which meant under the control of the Government of the day. Therefore the Commissioners were exposed to the direct current of political influence, which might be adverse to the interests of a class whom Parliament was bound in honour to protect. He feared that they were passing a measure which would produce a homogeneous population in Ireland, all of the same way of thinking and all of the same way of wishing, and whose thoughts and wishes would not be exactly tending towards the prosperity of the Empire.

*EARL SPENCER said that as a learned and able Scotsman had spoken he felt that perhaps he ought to say a few words on this exceedingly important matter. The noble and learned Lord had said that the Bill ought to be able to stand all kinds of stress and bad weather, but he was afraid that if the noble and learned Lord's views were taken, they would create bad weather and storms of a very serious kind. He had probably had as large an experience, in the capacity of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in dealing with the land question in that country and its difficulties, as any one of their Lordships, and he knew there was no difficulty so great as that surrounding the question of the evicted tenants. He sympathised with the planters, but to mark them out for preference would be to place them in a very serious position indeed. Is was absolutely necessary to meet the feeling in regard to evicted tenants by some such conciliatory method as the Government had suggested. He attached great importance to the dissipation of the ill-feeling that attached to past evictions. There was evidence of a better state of feeling in Ireland, and he urged the House not to impede the growth of this better feeling by accepting the Amendment. He thought the noble Marquess the Foreign Minister had put the case very strongly. If they were to have a state of feeling in Ireland on the land question similar to that which existed time after time when he was there, he did not know what provisions would save the country or those implicated. The power of the combinations referred to was enormous, and nothing but the force of the law could restrain them. He hoped that a new state of feeling would now spring up, and, as they saw evidences of it in many quarters, they should not impede it by accepting the Amendment.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he was sure no Irish landlord in their Lordships' House disagreed with the concluding observations of the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition. They were all most anxious that peace should reign in Ireland in the future. The Bill as introduced in the other House did give protection to planters, but in the course of events an alteration was made in favour of evicted tenants. It was provided in the Bill, as originally introduced, that an evicted tenant might be given facilities for purchasing "a" holding—that was, as he understood it, a vacant holding; and he would have been glad to have supported that provision. But in its passage through the other House the term "a" holding was altered to "that" holding, and the only holding the evicted tenant now had a chance of getting under the provisions of the Bill was the holding from which he was evicted. He hoped the House would support the Amendment.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN asked, in view of the statement by Lord Robertson that the Estates Commissioners would be dependent upon the Government of the day, whether or not the Commissioners would be independent judicial Commissioners.

*LORD ASHBOURNE replied that it was not intended by the Chief Secretary that the Estates Commissioners should be a legal or judicial body, but an executive body in touch with and controlled by the Executive. Although, no doubt, very important duties and functions were entrusted to them, it was intended by Mr. Wyndham in framing the Bill that they should look not to the judiciary but the Executive Government for the guidance and control.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN questioned the accuracy of the statement made by Lord Donoughmore, that the only holdings which evicted tenants would have an opportunity of securing would be holdings from which they had been evicted.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the statement was incorrect. The words in the section did not at all mean that the tenant could only be restored to the particular holding from which he had been evicted.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he was glad to have this assurance. He was not the only noble Lord who had been under a wrong impression.

*THE EARL OF WESTMEATH, referring to the observation of the noble Marquess the Foreign Minister that, in the event of pressure being brought to bear upon the planters, the Estates Commissioners might object to deal with the land, said he thought it would be hard on the Estates Commissioners if they had to hold an inquisition in every case to ascertain whether or not any pressure had been brought to bear on the tenant who wanted to sell. Then the noble Marquess said the Irish Government might protect the planters. He was sure the present Chief Secretary would give them every protection he could, but there were Chief Secretaries and Chief Secretaries. Then the noble Marquess said the House of Lords might come to the planters' protection; but was it seriously contemplated that the House of Lords should occupy itself with every case of oppression in the West of Ireland? It seemed to him that the protection which the noble Marquess thought was given was absolutely valueless. Then the noble Marquess said the leaders of the Nationalist Party had pledged their word that there would be no pressure. He did not wish to throw any doubt upon their word, but he did throw great doubt upon their ability to control their followers. He hoped, in insisting upon the Amendment, it would not be considered that they were acting unreasonably. If the Government wished to get on better, they should make up their minds to accept the Amendments, which were very reasonable, and not persevere in their present obstructive tactics.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (The Marquess of LONDONDERRY) said that if he had not been convinced on examining the Bill that the position of the planters would not be jeopardised he would not have stood up to defend the clause. The noble Marquess who held the office of Foreign Secretary had justly said that this measure was the result of a compromise. The administration of the Bill could not be satisfactory unless it were cordially supported by all classes of the community in Ireland. There was a fear that the planters might be unjustly treated. But if their position was secure in those years when the Unionist Party were struggling with the Nationalist Party, he could not but think that in the present changed condition of affairs it was still more secure. As had been said, the Leader of the Nationalists had given a pledge that he would be no party to any compulsory change in the position of the planters. They were bound to accept Mr. Redmond's assurance on this point. Only the other day he came across a speech by the Prime Minister, made when the Evicted Tenants Bill was passing through the House of Commons, in which Mr. Balfour said with regard to that Bill—

> "It is a contribution from this House, and nothing else, to the war expenses of a particular section and of a particular party."

And he went on to say—

> "If that section or party would hold out any hope that we have seen an end of these things, and that we need never look for a repetition of them in the future, I for one would not look too closely, either to the amount of money we are to vote, or to the merits of those who are about to receive it."

If that was Mr. Balfour's opinion in the then condition of things, he thought those words would carry far greater weight now. He had never believed that the time would come when he would see it placed on record that the Nationalists desired the Irish landlords to remain in the country, and welcomed them in remaining. That was a change which was undoubtedly for the better, and about which nobody rejoiced more than he. He felt convinced that the doubts which had been entertained would disappear in the future, and that they would see in Ireland good feeling, not only towards landlords, but towards all those who had fought their battles. For these reasons he supported the compromise which had been arrived at.

On Question, their Lordships divided. Contents, 61; Not-Contents, 71.

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Hampden, V.
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Annally, L.
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Castlemain, L.
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Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said this was the first clause that had ever been introduced into a Land Bill that was going to be of some material good to the landlord. The procedure was as follows: A landlord, whose demesne was mortgaged or charged with family charges, was able, when he sold his estate to the tenants, to sell his demesne to the Land Commission, get the money to pay off his charges, and then buy the demesne back from the Land Commission, borrowing the money from them on the same terms as those on which the tenant borrowed to buy his holding. That was, on the surface, a very equitable provision; but the working of the clause was practically spoilt by the presence of the words—

"And adjacent to, or in, the neighbourhood of, the estate."

The properties in Ireland were very much scattered, and it would necessarily follow that sales would be going on, under the Bill, of estates which consisted of parcels of land scattered all over the country. The result was that if the clause passed as it was now worded, not one in twenty landlords would be able to avail themselves of its provisions. There were hundreds of landlords who would be unable to secure this advantage from the Land Commission, because the demesne was not adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of, the estate. Again, in the case of the owner of two estates, who had sold one of his estates under previous Purchase Acts, and the other under this Act, the clause would be of no use to him if that owner had, in connection with the estate he had sold under the previous Purchase Acts, land in his possession which was either mortgaged or charged, and which charges he wished to clear off. He did not see why a landlord in that position should not receive the benefit of this clause.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 23, to leave out the words 'and adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of the estate.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The Irish Government are very much in sympathy with the object of this and other Amendments which will be moved by the noble Earl on this clause, but I am afraid the arguments by which he has supported the Amendment will not commend themselves altogether to a very important element in the consideration of this question. This clause, as the noble Earl has stated, extends a large pecuniary boon to many Irish owners, of a character which has never been extended to them before, and will involve a very considerable addition to the amount of the advance which the Treasury will have to undertake to make to Irish landlords. That is a proposal which the Treasury have been induced to consent to with some reluctance, and I am afraid we will find a very strong indisposition on their part to extend it further. The noble Lord has told us that the words he proposes to strike out would apply this clause to many hundreds of cases to which it does not now apply. Although the Irish Government are very much in sympathy with the object of the clause, I am afraid it would be impossible to induce the Treasury to undertake liabilities so much more extensive than those to which they have already reluctantly consented. I shall on a future Amendment by the noble Earl assent to some modification of this proposal, but I am afraid I could not undertake that the Treasury could be induced to agree to an extension of the clause in the direction he proposes.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Donoughmore.

THE EARL OF BELMORE said the object of his Amendment was to carry Clause 3 a little further in certain cases, and he hoped the noble Duke would not find that the Treasury's objections were so strong to it as they were to the proposal which had just been withdrawn. The clause as he proposed to amend it would provide that where the owner of an estate had entered into agreements under the Land Purchase Acts for the sale to persons other than the Land Commission of the estate, the Land Commission might purchase from him any demesne or other land in his occupation and adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of, the estate, at a price which, in their opinion, represented the selling value of that land, and in such case might resell the whole or any portion of that land to him "or to a person nominated by the Land Commission as his representative;" and that where any land was resold "to the owner or his representative as aforesaid," an advance under the Land Purchase Acts might be made, not exceeding in any case one-third of the aggregate amount of the purchase money of the holdings and other parcels of the land comprised in the estate, or £20,000, whichever was the less. The owner of a demesne might have no son to succeed him, but he might have daughters who had a charge upon his estate, including his demesne. The remainder-man might be more or less a distant relation, with whom the owner was not on friendly terms, and he might not think it worth his while to repurchase his demesne because it would do his daughters no harm whatever if it went, and he might not care what happened. The remainder-man might be desirous of being put in as good a position as possible, but without this Amendment he would not get advantage of the loan on the very easy terms which the clause provided. This power was actually, in the Bill, given to the Land Commission in cases where they had bought the estate from the Land Judge through his Court, and there was no reason why similar power should not be given in cases where the Land Commission had bought direct through a private vendor.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 26, after the word 'him,' to insert the words 'or to a person nominated by the Land Commission as his representative';

and in line 27, after the word 'resold,' to insert the words 'to the owner or his representative as aforesaid.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am afraid this is not an Amendment which it is possible for the Irish Government or the Treasury to accept. There is an Amendment, in a somewhat similar direction, which will shortly be moved by Lord Donoughmore, which, with some alteration, we shall be able to accept. I cannot say that I precisely understand the effect of the Amendment which the noble Earl has just moved, but I am afraid it cannot be accepted.

*THE EARL OF BELMORE said that if another Amendment was to be proposed, which would achieve the same thing, he would not press his Amendment.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not say the same thing, but, I believe, nearly.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF MANCHESTER said the sub-section which he moved to delete provided that—

> "In entering into agreements for the resale of any land to the vendor of an estate, the Land Commission shall have regard to the amount of land available for the enlargement of holdings where they consider such enlargement necessary."

Unless this sub-section was omitted, power would be given to the Estates Commissioners, when they were reselling a demesne to a landlord, to withdraw any part or parts of that demesne which, in their opinion, would round off the holding of an adjacent tenant. He thought such a provision would go a good way towards stultifying one of the objects of the Bill, which was to keep the landlords in Ireland after the sales had taken place. It might be urged against his Amendment that if the Estates Commissioners intended to use the authority given them under this sub-section, the landlord had the power in his own hands, and could refuse to sell unless the terms were such as to suit himself; but would it not be very likely, in that case, that he would be laid open to a charge of obstruction and of being unwilling to assist in the working of the Act?

Amendment moved—

> "In page 3, line 36, leave out Sub-section 3."—(*The Duke of Manchester.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE could not help thinking that the noble Lord had read into the sub-section more than it actually contained. He would like to remind him of its effect. Clause 3, under which demesnes could be bought and re-sold to the owners, was, by general admission, a provision of extraordinary liberality. That, he was glad to say, had been conceded by several noble Lords who had spoken. It was an arrangement financially advantageous, and, in other ways, most convenient to many owners of land in Ireland, and particularly to those who owned heavily-encumbered estates. The sub-section merely said this, that before the Land Commission re-sold to the owner the demesne, it was to take into account the amount of land in the landlord's occupation which might be available for the enlargement of holdings where an enlargement was considered necessary. What that meant was that if the estate contained a number of uneconomic holdings, holdings too small to support a tenant and his family, and if those holdings, by means of an addition of land, could be made sufficient in size to support a tenant, that enlargement could take place by the utilisation of a part of the land which was formerly in the landlord's hands. That was a condition attached to this extremely liberal clause, and he did not think it at all an unreasonable one. He hoped the noble Duke would not press his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

*THE EARL OF BELMORE said importance was attached to the next Amendment in his name. The sub-section at present provided that—

> "Where any land is resold to the vendor in pursuance of this section the Judicial Commissioner may, if he thinks it equitable, on the application of any person who, at the date of the sale of the land to the Land Commission, was entitled to any estate in remainder or reversion in that land, order, upon such terms and conditions as he may think reasonable, that the land so resold shall devolve in accordance with the terms of the settlement which at the date of the sale to the Land Commission affected it."

He moved to omit the words "to the vendor."

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 40, to leave out the words, 'to the vendor.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: This Amendment is assented to.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF BELMORE said his next Amendment was to enable the Land Commission to advance to a vendor not only enough to re-purchase his demesne and other lands in his hands, but also his mansion house, or dwelling house, and other buildings thereon. Mr. Wyndham had contended in the House of Commons that "demesne" included the buildings, and that the Amendment was unnecessary. This seemed too doubtful to be accepted. It had been laid down that the definition of demesne lands under the Land Code was "lands held by the owner with the mansion house" (per Sir E. Sullivan, C., in Griffin *v.* Taylor; 16 Law Reports, Ireland). The Settled Land Act of 1882, Section 15, spoke of "The principal mansion house on any settled land, and the demesnes thereof." This seemed to differentiate between the two. Further, under Section 5 of the Land Act of 1896, demesne lands could be undemesned, whilst the house would still remain a mansion house. It did not seem clear, therefore, that the word "demesne" necessarily included the mansion house and buildings, and the Amendment was therefore necessary. Its principle had already been accepted by Mr. Wyndham.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, after line 5, after the word 'it,' to insert the following new sub-section—'(5) Any advance made to a vendor under this section for the re-purchase by him of any land may include the re-purchase of any mansion, dwelling-house, or other buildings thereon.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

*LORD ASHBOURNE said the point raised by the noble Earl was dealt with in a subsequent Amendment standing in the name of the noble Duke the Leader of the House, who proposed to move that the expression "demesne" should include any mansion-house or other building thereon.

*THE EARL OF BELMORE: Will that have the effect I desire?

LORD ASHBOURNE: Yes, that is so intended.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD DUNBOYNE explained that the object of his Amendment was to secure that the vendor should get an advance of one-third of the whole of the value of his estates whether they were sold at one time or at different occasions.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 5, after the word 'it' to insert the following new sub-section—'(5) In estimating the amount which may be advanced under this section for the re-purchase by the vendor of any demesne or other land, and any mansion or dwelling-house or other buildings thereon, the Land Commission may take into account the aggregate amount of the purchase-money of the holdings and other parcels of land sold by the same vendor, or by his predecessors in title, under this Act.'"—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

LORD INCHIQUIN supported the Amendment.

*LORD ASHBOURNE said this was a matter which had to be dealt with from the Treasury point of view, and he had reason to know that the Treasury did not see their way to accede to the suggestion contained in the Amendment.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE held that the Amendment would not involve the expenditure of a single extra shilling.

LORD MACNAGHTEN took a similar view, and failed to see why the Amendment should not be accepted.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The Treasury have had the Amendment under consideration this very day, and they do not see their way to accept it.

LORD MACNAGHTEN: Perhaps they do not understand it.

LORD DUNBOYNE said the Amendment could not cast any additional burden on the Treasury, because the limit of £20,000 would still exist. Moreover, Mr. Wyndham had stated in the House of Commons that a vendor might sell his property in various small portions and re-purchase his demesne in equally small portions. Therefore the Amendment placed no additional burden on the Treasury.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN suggested the withdrawal of the Amendment until the Report stage, so as to give the Treasury time to reconsider it.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I will endeavour to ascertain a little more accurately what the point of view of the Treasury is.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 5, after the word 'it,' to insert the following new sub-section: '(5) If the owner of any demesne, or other land or premises in his occupation, sold to the Land Commission under this section, does not repurchase the same within the prescribed time, the Land Commission may sell the same to any persons entitled to the estate sold under any settlement thereof, according as they may be successively entitled thereto under such settlement.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am advised that the sale ought to be, not to the remainder-man himself but to the trustees, and I would suggest the following modification—

"(5) If the owner of any demesne, or other land subject to settlement and sold to the Land Commission, does not repurchase the same within the prescribed time, the Land Commission may make an advance under this section to the trustees of the settlement, and in such case the land resold shall be held subject to the trusts of the settlement."

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE accepted the Amendment.

On Question, sub-section, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

LORD INCHIQUIN said the object of the new clause which he proposed to move was to enable a landlord to borrow money for the purpose of purchasing parcels of land rounding off his estate. It might be argued that as the landlord was selling his property he would have plenty of cash to purchase this land himself, but he pointed out that the purchase money would in most cases remain in trust, and the landlord was not able to invest it in the purchase of tenant-rights on his own property. The great point to his mind was the one which would affect almost every estate in Ireland. It was that there were always to be found corners of land cutting into a demesne, and it was only right that power should be given to the owners to obtain such portions of land which would be of great importance to their estates. He begged to move to insert in the Bill the following new clause—

Amendment moved, "To insert the following new clause."

"Where the tenant of a holding desires to sell his interest in the whole or any part thereof, and the landlord desires to purchase the same, the Land Commission may advance to the landlord the purchase money thereof on the same terms as to amount and repayment as are provided in this Act respecting advances to tenants for the purchase of their holdings."—(*Lord Inchiquin.*)

THE EARL OF CREWE said he wished to say a word or two in support, to a limited extent, of the Motion. They all agreed that the retention of their demesnes by the landlords in Ireland was one of the most desirable objects this Bill intended to promote. If that could be done more agreeably and amicably by the insertion of some words like those proposed, it would be an exceedingly desirable thing. On the other hand, he thought the wording of the Amendment was rather wide, and if the noble Lord would insert some words to limit the Amendment to the object which he had particularly in view—viz., the rounding off of demesnes, he should certainly press the Government to accept it. But, as the Amendment stood, there was nothing to prevent the landlord buying anywhere all over his estate, and that seemed a very wide power to give.

LORD CASTLETOWN said in the Act of 1896 a similar clause was brought in, dealing with the purchase of small holdings in the vicinity of, or adjacent to, the demesnes. It was then agreed that a portion of the guarantee deposit should be invested in the purchase of those small holdings if found to be necessary. They could not lay sufficient stress on the value of the Amendment. If the Government really meant what they said, and desired to keep the landlords in the country after they had sold the larger portions of their estates, it would be a wise policy, although with little expense to the Treasury, to assist them to purchase the holdings adjacent to their demesnes.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I quite enter into the feelings of the noble Lords who desire to round off their demesnes. It is not in Ireland alone that people desire to add to their possessions in this manner. The Amendment, however, as it now stands, goes far beyond that, because it enables the landlord to purchase any holding from his tenants, no matter where situate, and to receive for the purpose advances from the Land Commission. We could not possibly consent to so large a widening of the scope of the Bill. Although the noble Duke took us good-humouredly to task for subservience to the Treasury in this matter, we have to bear in mind that this Bill is founded upon considerable concessions on the part of the Treasury, and it is not reasonable to expect them to add largely to the extent of those concessions. I would point out that it is not for the purpose of enabling Irish landowners to add to the land in their occupation that the Bill was framed, and that any attempt to do so would certainly be foreign to the general purpose and scope of the measure. The purpose of the Bill is to convert the tenants of Irish land into owners thereof, but the clause would effect an entirely different purpose. Therefore as the Amendment stands we certainly cannot regard it with favour, and I am moreover advised that under Clause 2 of the Bill there are already given facilities for the exchange and re-arrangement of parcels of land which will enable vendors to bring about the kind consolidation which the supporters of the Amendment so much desire.

*EARL SPENCER: I think that our experience of last year has taught us new lessons with regard to the point that I am going to raise. Is not this a question which comes under the head of privilege? It will be a considerable increase in the money advanced by the Treasury, and it may lead to a considerable difficulty. Last year there were extraordinary questions of privilege raised in connection with the Education Act, and this may come in the same sort of category. Does not this Amendment come within that class of proposal? I have considerable sympathy with the Amendment as proposed, but it strikes me that it may be a question of privilege.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Probably the noble Earl is right, and although there is no reason why we should not occupy ourselves in consideration of the points, it is doubtful whether the other House would take any notice of them if sent there.

LORD DUNBOYNE said it seemed to him that land must be very depreciated in value if the fee-simple was worth less than the tenant-right.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he wished to point out, with great deference, that with regard to the principle of this Amendment it would not cost the Treasury another shilling if it were to be passed. They would simply have to lend a little more, but it would be nothing out of their pockets, because the bonus given under the Bill did not apply to any case coming under Clause 3.

LORD INCHIQUIN asked if the Government could see their way to accept the clause if it were to be amended and brought in at a later stage.

*LORD ASHBOURNE: It appears to me that this Amendment would entirely upset the scheme and intention of the Land Purchase Code which was based on the intention of creating occupying owners. You will not find anything in the Bill which enables the landlord to buy more land.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said there was a clause in the Act of 1881 which gave the landlords power to buy the interests of the tenants' holding, and this Amendment merely suggests you should lend him the money.

*LORD ASHBOURNE replied that pre-emption was another matter, and was put in the Bill for another purpose.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I doubt whether the question could be considered in any form. Certainly there is no question so far as I am aware, that this Bill was not intended to establish a question of authorising the Treasury to advance money to purchase anything but the fee on the property. The idea of purchasing the interest of the tenant is absolutely alien to the principle of the Bill. One noble Lord said it would not cost the Treasury anything. It may not cost anything directly out of their pocket, but all these proposals add to the amount which the Treasury has to find, and is required to lend. That is a matter on which the Treasury is entitled to have a voice, because the larger the loan which the Treasury is called upon to issue the more serious matter does it become for them to deal with. It follows, therefore, that the Treasury are distinctly interested in anything which increases the amount of advance they are called upon to make.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON said he thought words ought to be introduced into the clause in order to protect the remainder-man. Those tenants could only be dealt with outside the zone, and the remainder-man ought to be put into the clause. He would ask the Government to consider the question.

*LORD ASHBOURNE said his noble friend would observe that even in this Clause 5 they had to be satisfied with the security, and that the agreed price was equitable. That would indicate that everything was taken into account. He would, however, consider the matter before the Report stage.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE said he hoped the noble Duke would see his way to accept the next Amendment, which was only intended to make clearer what was the intention of the Government on this clause. As Sub-sections 4 and 5 now stood, two things were necessary to constitute a congested estate, and if both those conditions were carried out the Land Commission might purchase the estate at a higher price. His object was that no estate should be declared to be a congested estate unless the owner had applied to the Land Commission that this should be done. He might be told that it was no hardship to the landlord to have his estate made a congested estate, and that, on the contrary, it made it rather better, as a better price would be obtained. He thought, however, that noble Lords would agree that the mere fact of an estate being made a congested estate, placed it in a lower class, and, possibly, the initial value placed upon it by the Commission would be less than if it were an ordinary estate. That would not be counterbalanced by any condition made by Sub-clause 4 under the Bill. What he desired to make quite plain was that the owner must apply to have his estate made a congested estate, and not until that had been done must the Land Commission certify to the Lord Lieutenant that it was so.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, to leave out Sub-sections 4 and 5 and insert the words: '(4) Where the owner of an estate makes an application in the prescribed manner under this clause, the Land Commission may certify to the Lord Lieutenant that the purchase and re-sale of the estate are desirable, in view of the wants and circumstances of the tenants, then such an estate shall be considered a 'congested estate,' and thereupon the Land Commission may purchase the estate for a price to be agreed upon, and, in such case, the condition in this section as to re-sale without prospect of loss may be relaxed to such an extent as the Lord Lieutenant may determine. Provided always that no estate shall be deemed to be a 'congested estate,' unless half the area thereof consists of holdings not exceeding £5 in rateable value, or of mountain or bog land, or not less than a quarter of the area of which is held in rundale, or intermixed plots.'"—(*Lord Oranmore and Browne.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I do not know whether I entirely follow the argument of the noble Lord. I do not understand whether he is dissatisfied with the clause as it stands. This is a clause which deals with sale and purchase without reference to the zones. The landlord under this clause goes and offers his estate to the Land Commission, who make inquiry and satisfy themselves that three-fourths of the tenants are ready to buy. They then take the estate off the landlord's hands and proceed to re-sell it. Then the clause goes on to say that in certain cases the Land Commission may buy and re-sell at a loss to the Exchequer. That is another instance of the liberal manner in which the Treasury has dealt with this Bill. It is, however, laid down that these sales at a loss are only to take place where the estate is a congested estate—that is to say, where it falls within the definition contained in Sub-section 5 of the clause. That seems to be a most reasonable arrangement. I gather that the noble Lord who moved the Amendment desires that none of these things shall take place except with the knowledge and concurrence of the owner of the estate. But the whole clause, as I understand it, is covered by the words of Sub-section 1, and the whole machinery is, in fact, set in motion by the landlord.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE said that although the explanation of the noble Marquess was satisfactory, it seemed rather doubtful whether the opening words of Sub-section 1 covered Sub-sections 4 and 5. He thought his Amendment made it clearer, but if there was no doubt about it he would withdraw the Amendment.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I can promise the noble Lord that the suggestion shall be examined, but I cannot pledge myself as to the result of the examination.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7.

LORD DUNBOYNE said he hoped that the Amendment which he had to move would commend itself to the Lord Chancellor of Ireland. It was purely a legal point, and many noble Lords were doubtless unacquainted with the provisions of Section 40 of the Act of 1896. The effect of this clause would be to enable the Estates Commissioners to force the Land Judges to sell estates lying unsold in their Court. The number of such estates was very large, and the Land Judges refused to sell under an artificially depreciated state of the land market in Ireland. His Amendment proposed that the powers of Clause 7 of this Act should only be put into operation in such cases as were within Section 40 of the Act of 1896. To bring that section into effect it was necessary either (1) for an absolute order for sale to be made by the Judge, (2) for a Receiver to be appointed, or (3) for the estate to be insolvent. The object of the Amendment was that Section 40 of the Act of 1896 should apply to these estates, and would, in fact, limit it to insolvent estates.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 21, after '1858' to insert the words, 'and to which the provisions of Section 40 of the Act of 1896 apply.'"—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

*LORD ASHBOURNE: I do not know what useful purpose my noble friend thinks would be served here. I should think it might create danger to solvent owners. Why should words be introduced here which might practically have that effect?

LORD DUNBOYNE said the effect of Clause 7 as it stood was that the Estates Commissioners could force the Land Judges to sell any or all estates now in their Court for sale, without consideration whether the properties were solvent or insolvent. He wanted to restrict that power to insolvent estates.

*LORD ASHBOURNE: I will look into what has been said by the noble Lord, but I must say that it will come with extreme surprise if there is any foundation for the dangers that have been suggested. I believe the effect of introducing these words might be to confine the operation of the section purely to insolvent estates, and the effect of that might be to prevent the most potent buyer in the land market in Ireland in the future from coming in and bidding for the solvent estates. I am sure that those concerned in the administration of that Court would be surprised at, and would not concur with, the view suggested by the noble Lord. I will, however, consider the matter carefully before the Report stage.

LORD CASTLETOWN said some estates were brought in under Section 40 with a view to the collection of rents, and in some cases those estates had become solvent estates. It would be very unfair if those solvent estates were brought in, and thus were unable to get the bonus.

*LORD ASHBOURNE said Judge Ross had applied himself steadily to the idea of preventing people in Ireland under the ægis of his Court from regarding it as a mere rent-collecting body. He would consider the subject.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD CLONBROCK said he wished to move an Amendment which would enable the vendor to know the amount of the purchase money and the amount of the arrears. At present the two sums were lumped together, and it surely was desirable for the vendor to know the amount of arrears charged for.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 37, after the word 'offer' to insert the words 'and the amount of purchase money therefor.' In line 39, after the word 'Commission' to insert the words 'and the amount of purchase money therefor.' In line 40, after the first word 'the' to insert the word 'total.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Those who have drafted this Bill are of opinion that these particulars would not be of any benefit to the owner, or to anyone else. All particulars that were thought necessary have been drafted in the clause, and it is not considered that there would be any advantage in adding the words suggested.

LORD CASTLETOWN said the tenant for life would know exactly what he was selling, and the remainder-man would be able to know what he was to receive as his inheritance. Unless the Amendment was accepted there would be continuous actions between the remainder-man and the tenant for life in order to settle the question.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I cannot undertake to accept it.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clauses 7 to 10 agreed to.

Clause 11.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said the clause as it now stood would abolish guarantee deposits entirely. In all these cases the Land Commission was bound to sanction advances, but in other cases it would be desirable to leave the Land Commission discretionary power to reserve the guarantee deposits, otherwise they might refuse to sanction as large a price as they would pass had they the power to reserve deposits, and thus the sales would be seriously affected. The Amendment would not only help sales, but it was in the interests both of the Government and of the Bill, and he trusted that the noble Duke would accept it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 7, line 16, to leave out the words 'the foregoing provisions' and insert the words 'Sub-section 1 of Section 1.'"—(*The Duke of Abercorn.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: On former occasions landlords frequently made complaints about guarantee deposits. The provisions of this Bill have enabled guarantee deposits to be dispensed with. It was intended to provide security for the advance, but in this Bill other securities, which are considered sufficient, have been taken, and it is now considered that the guarantee deposit is no longer required in any case. The only object of this Amendment would be to enable a larger price to be obtained for the estate than that which would otherwise be given. The Amendment would probably be strongly resisted in the House of Commons by representatives of the tenants on that ground, and would be by them regarded as being, to a certain extent, a breach of compromise. I do not think that any suggestion to this effect was made in the other House, and certainly the reasons which have been advanced by the noble Duke in bringing it forward, are not sufficient to induce us to think that the Bill ought to be altered.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said if the noble Duke said it would cause a breach of the compromise, and would lead to further discussion, he was willing to withdraw it, but he was bound to say that he thought the Amendment was a very simple one, and could have been accepted by the Government without detriment to the well-being of the Bill.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not think if we sent this Amendment back to the other House on the ground that it would enable the landlords to get a better price from the tenants, it would commend itself to the approval of the other House.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12.

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON said he had given notice of an Amendment to carry out the intention of both the Government and the leaders of the Nationalist Party, but he did not intend to press it then, as some of his friends were not certain that it would carry out the desired object. He hoped that at a later stage of the Bill something would be produced to safeguard the interests of those men who had shown themselves loyal and law-abiding citizens. They knew by past experience that although Parliament might mean one thing, unless its opinion was expressed in some printed document the exact opposite might be carried out, and he wanted it made perfectly clear that the interests of these loyal men would be safeguarded. In the meanwhile, he would withdraw the Amendment.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Clause 13.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said the Amendment he desired to move was considered as very important over the whole of Ireland. He spoke at some length upon the subject on the Second Reading, but the superior attractions of the dinner hour proved too strong for his noble friends, and he was afraid that he would now have to repeat the remarks he then made. They thought that the condition of sporting rights, as delineated in this clause, was extremely unsatisfactory. The object of the Amendment moved in another place was to continue the position of sporting rights, as it was under the past Purchase Acts, but he hoped to show that it did nothing of the kind. It instituted a very, very unfair possibility to the landlord, for the reason that under previous Purchase Acts it had nearly always happened that the sporting rights had been retained with the landlord, and there was no question whatever on the tenant's part as to the retention. As the clause was worded at present, it said that the exclusive sporting rights of the landlord might be reserved to him or might be transferred to the tenant. What did that mean? It meant that when the landlord went to arrange a price with the tenant the latter would naturally, as the clause gave him the power to do, cause the sporting rights to enter into the bargain and say, "If you have them you must give me consideration for them." That was an entirely new principle to insert in the Bill, and he claimed that it was a very unfair one. But there was more than that. This clause was introduced in another place, drafted by the Solicitor-General of England, and he was sorry to say that the wording of the clause only illustrated once more the fact that, although they had one or two notable exceptions in the House, when a learned lawyer descended into the field of sport, he got hopelessly out of his depth. The clause dealt only with the vendors' sporting rights, but there were separate sorts of sporting rights in Ireland, and the other two were absolutely neglected by this Bill. The first sort was the one dealt with in the Bill, *i.e.*, the vendors' exclusive sporting rights; the second was the concurrent rights which were shared by the landlord and the tenant, and the third were the tenants' exclusive sporting rights, which were found in some parts of the country, and which ought to be dealt with under the Bill. The Amendment which he begged to submit dealt with all those rights, and he asked them to look at it. The first sub-section said :—

> "Where any land is sold under the Land Purchase Acts, all sporting rights shall, after the sale, in default of any agreement to the contrary, and subject to the subsequent provisions of this Act, remain vested in the persons in whom the same were vested in like manner as the same were held immediately prior to the sale of the said land, and for the same interests, but subject to the provisions of the Ground Game Act, 1880.

He claimed that that sub-section absolutely carried on the *status quo*, which was the object of the Government in this Bill. The second sub-section provided that—

> "The tenant shall be at liberty, at the time of the sale of the land, to transfer to the vendor, by agreement, by such rights as shall be at that date vested in him, upon any such terms as may be agreed upon."

Whilst the third sub-section set forth that—

> "In default of any such agreement between the tenant and the vendor, all sporting rights, save those already vested in the vendor, shall go to and be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission shall offer the same for sale or letting in the first place to the vendor of the estate, and in case the vendor shall refuse to purchase same, then the Land Commission may deal with same as they may think fit."

It might be objected that by the last words of the third sub-section the sporting rights were taken away from the tenant and given to the landlord, and there was to be no payment whatever, but he would point out that under the Act of 1881 the exclusive sporting rights of the tenant were of very, very little value. Under the present state of the law, if the landlord had not reserved his rights the operation of the Land Acts came in. The tenant served notice on the landlord that he intended to apply to the Court to have a fair rent fixed. By that step the landlord at once received a concurrent right with the tenant in the sporting rights in that holding, and when the fair rent was fixed by the Land Commission that Commission had no option whatever, if the landlord pleased, but to give him the exclusive sporting rights. Therefore he claimed that the tenant's exclusive sporting rights, where they existed, were of very little value, because they might be taken away without compensation at the end of fifteen years.

He would strongly press another point. It was to the interests of the whole country that the landlord should keep these sporting rights for various reasons. It was admitted that the Government wanted the landlords to stay in Ireland. If they wanted them to do that they must give them an interest in the country, and so far as he could see the only interest they would have was the interest in these sporting rights. In his own case he was most anxious to keep them. Further, it was necessary to have a spending class in the country, and as the landlords were a spending class the Government ought to try and keep them in the country. He would next urge that these sporting rights, when properly looked after, brought money into the country. The landlords let their houses as hunting boxes; they let their fishing and their shooting. But it was not only the landlord who benefited by the foreigner coming into the country to spend his money; every class of the community benefited. The local shopkeepers and the car-drivers derived a benefit; the tenants benefited by selling their horses to rich visitors, and in fact every class in Ireland benefited by the advent of the rich foreigner. The sporting rights must be kept in the country, and the landlord class were the proper people to keep them up. They were the only people with the knowledge, because they had kept them up for years. They were the only people with an organisation, the only people with keepers, and the only people with watchers; and experience proved that, if the sporting rights were taken away from the landlords, sport would disappear from the country. In Ireland they had a body called the Game Protection Association, the president of which was a distinguished Member of their Lordships' House, and to which they all subscribed. He had an extract from a memorandum which they published, which was as follows :—

> "The almost universal experience of the members of the association has been that where the game rights have been vested in the tenants in a sale of their farms under the existing Land Acts, such game rights are utterly neglected, and the game rapidly exterminated. For years past the association has been endeavouring to make the tenants realise the money loss which they were suffering by their foolish acts in this respect, but with small success."

That extract entirely agreed with his own experience on the subject. He knew parts of the country in his own district where tenants had acquired sporting rights and there was no game left. Among the sporting rights were those of hunting, and he presumed that meant the right of fox hunting. Unless these rights were preserved to the landlord, who would look after the fox covers? On fox hunting depended the horse-breeding industry, which was the one prominent industry remaining in the country. The tenant had no time to look after fox covers, and if they went, fox hunting would go, horse breeding would follow, and the only thing that kept the country above water would be utterly wasted. Then with regard to maintaining the streams, the landlord had watchers to prevent poaching, but if the waters were handed over to the tenant nothing at all would be done. The salmon-fishing, if handed over to the tenant, who cared nothing for it, would disappear.

Then with regard to the other Sub-section, which was—

> "Where a sale has taken place under the Land Purchase Acts of holdings or an estate, and the purchase agreement provides that the sporting rights shall belong to the vendor, or where the sporting rights vest in the Land Commission under this Act, there shall be vested in the vendor or the Land Commission, and their respective successors and assigns, the rights of sporting upon and over such holdings or estate, together with the right to enter on said lands, to take all necessary steps for the due preservation of game and fish thereon, and to prosecute trespassers in pursuit of game or fish thereon, as fully and effectually as if they were the legal occupier of the land, and for all such purposes they shall be deemed to be such occupier."

He was advised that the present law was based entirely on the relationship between landlord and tenant. The Bill was to destroy that right, and without that section they would have no right whatever to prosecute. It was a very important subject, and he sincerely hoped that the Government would be able to deal with his Amendment, which was not moved in any spirit of emnity but merely because they were advised that it was the only satisfactory way of carrying out what they believed would conduce to the good future of Ireland. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 8, to leave out Sub-section 1 and insert the following new sub-sections: '(1.) Where any land is sold under the Land Purchase Acts, all sporting rights shall, after the sale, in default of any agreement to the contrary, and subject to the subsequent provisions of this Act, remain vested in the persons in whom the same were vested in like manner as the same were held immediately prior to the sale of the said land, and for the same interests, but subject to the provisions of the Ground Game Act, 1880. (2.) The tenant shall be at liberty, at the time of the sale of the land, to transfer to the vendor, by agreement, any such rights as shall be at that date vested in him, upon any such terms as may be agreed upon. (3.) In default of any such agreement between the tenant and the vendor, all sporting rights, save those already vested in the vendor, shall go to and be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission shall offer the same for sale or letting in the first place to the vendor of the estate; and in case the vendor shall refuse to purchase same, then the Land Commission may deal with same as they may think fit. (4.) Where a sale has taken place under the Land Purchase Acts of holdings or an estate, and the purchase agreement provides that the sporting rights shall belong to the vendor, or where the sporting rights vest in the Land Commission under this Act, there shall be vested in the vendor or the Land Commission, and their respective successors and assigns, the right [of sporting upon and over such holdings or estate together with the right to enter on said lands to take all necessary steps for the due preservation of game and fish thereon, and] to prosecute trespassers in pursuit of game or fish thereon, as fully and effectually as if they were the legal occupier of the land, and for all such purposes they shall be deemed to be such occupier.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said it was extremely desirable that the landlord should retain the sporting rights. By an exodus of the landlords £2,000,000 or £3,000,000 would be withdrawn from Ireland, and that would be almost a catastrophe to the country, which was a poor one. And it would fall most heavily on the most deserving classes, the labourers and small shopkeepers. If for no other reason than that, it was highly desirable that the best possible inducements should be given to the landlords to remain in the country, and the enjoyment of the sporting rights would be the chief inducement for them to remain. It was a very difficult subject to deal with, and he frankly admitted that he did not like the noble Duke's Amendment nor that of the Duke of Manchester's, nor his own, though he liked his own the best of the three. There were some tenants—the now judicial tenants, for instance—who had the exclusive right of game, and he did not see how that exclusive right could be taken from them without some kind of compensation being given, even if it was only a nominal compensation. He did not see in the Bill that the Land Commission had any power to purchase the sporting rights from those tenants who had the exclusive right of game. In his opinion there were some points to be considered with regard to the sporting rights in order that an ideal clause might be made to deal with them. First of all there should be no sort of compulsion or constraint put on the purchasers to give a right in perpetuity to a person to walk about their property, and to give the right not only to him, but to his gamekeepers, servants and so on. Secondly, the sporting rights should be retained wherever practicable, and where they were not retained it did not appear to him that the Land Commissioners were the best body to hold them. He did not see what the Land Commissioners were to do with them.

A NOBLE LORD: Let them.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: If, as the noble Lord said, the Land Commissioners were to let them, then who was to have the money? He thought that if they were not retained they should be transferred to the local authorities. If the County Councils could let them it would be obviously to the advantage of the small tenants to look after the game and preserve it, because whatever rent it fetched would go in the relief of rates, and that in itself would be a distinct advantage and an agreeable inducement to the tenants to see that the game was preserved and that the property was not poached, and so on. Then there came what to him appeared to be a much more important matter than the shooting rights, and that was the fishing rights, because the enormous industry of Ireland—he did not allude to angling, but the great salmon fisheries in the estuary of the Shannon and in other large rivers of Ireland—depended, as their Lordships knew perfectly well, upon the strict preservation of the upper waters of the river, and if the upper waters were in the hands of small proprietors they would have no object in preserving the waters and would not preserve them, nor, did he imagine, would the Land Commission or the County Councils, because the County Councils in possession of the upper waters of the Shannon and its tributaries had no interest in the main industry of the estuary of the Shannon. Therefore, in his opinion, where the fishing rights were not reserved to the landlord they should be transferred to a public board which would look after them. That board, he proposed, should be the Board of Agriculture. Those appeared to him to be the four matters it was requisite to consider in dealing with this subject: That the fishing not reserved should go to the Board of Agriculture; that the shooting not reserved should go to local authorities; that the landlords should be enabled to reserve their rights by agreement, and should be encouraged to do so as much as possible; and that there should be no kind of constraint put upon the purchasing tenants to give a right in perpetuity to anybody to have access for sporting purposes to their land. He did not pretend to say that his Amendment met all the cases he had endeavoured to meet, especially in regard to the point of the County Councils and the Board of Agriculture, but the matter was a very complicated and difficult one, and he was rather in hopes that the Government might perhaps be able to advise the House on the matter, and probably draw up some more satisfactory words.

*LORD MASSY said their object in trying to protect the game was to try and induce British sportsmen to come over to Ireland, where they would have something to shoot, and spend their money in the country. To attain that object they thought the best thing would be, where an estate was sold under this Bill, not to hand over the sporting rights to the tenants, who would have, perhaps, neither the power nor the inclination to preserve the game on their holdings, many of which would be so ridiculously small that they could not preserve the game, but to vest the sporting rights in the Land Commission; to give the vendor the primary right to buy the rights if he wished, but if he did not wish to do so the Land Commission should dispose of them as they thought fit. It was perfectly manifest that if these rights were not put into the hands of some responsible party such as the Land Commission or the vendors, that in a few years there would not be a head of game in the country to preserve, and any idea of the British sportsman going over to Ireland to shoot game and spend his money would be hopeless, and the rateable asset—namely, the money which he would leave behind—would be lost to the country. He disagreed with the noble Lord as to the County Council being the proper party in whom to vest the game. He thought the Land Commission, or the vendor was the right person. What had been held out all through this Bill was that, as an encouragement to the landlords to stay in the country, they should be at liberty to purchase their demesnes, but if the sporting rights were taken from them one of the greatest inducements for them to remain in the country would be gone.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said it was really of the utmost importance that the sporting rights under this Bill should be preserved as closely as possible. Mr. Wyndham had said in another place that under the Bill the landlords were left with all their existing powers, but when under the Bill the landowner ceased to be the landowner, where did the existing powers go? He was then no longer a landlord. It was therefore absolutely necessary that new powers should be vested in them when they were no longer landowners. He was sure the noble Duke must sympathise with them in this matter, especially so far as it concerned salmon fisheries, in which he was so interested. Unless the upper waters of the rivers were closely preserved, there would be no salmon in the lower waters. It was easy for one man to preserve game, but impossible for a large number of small holders to do so. They ought to be very careful that the sporting rights which had hitherto existed, and were in the hands of the landlords, should not now be taken away from them, because without something to do in Ireland they could not expect the landlords to remain in the country. The same remark applied to hunting; facilities ought to be given to get to the covers. This was a matter that should be given close attention to, not only by the Government, but by every one who had the slightest sense of the sporting instinct about him.

LORD CASTLETOWN said, as he understood, the "exclusive rights" meant exclusive rights as between the landlord and the tenant, because he would draw attention to the fact that there was sometimes a concurrent right in a third party—concurrent to the landlord's right.

Lord Massy.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said it would be perhaps convenient if, before discussion went further, he stated what the intentions of the Government were with regard to the Amendment. He did not think he would be wrong in saying that there was a unanimous opinion with regard to the object at which it was desirable to arrive. In the first place, he did not think there was a single Member of the House who did not share the feeling that had just now been expressed, to the effect that they should do all in their power to induce those Irish landlords who might part with their estates to remain in Ireland and to continue to take part in the same healthy exercises and pastimes in which they had hitherto been in the habit of indulging. Besides that, they must all agree that unless some precautions were taken there was a serious risk that what was at this moment a valuable asset, whoever it belonged to, might, if they did not take care, altogether disappear. That was to say, that if these sporting rights were split up and frittered away by being placed in the hands of a number of people who were unable to turn them to account, they might practically cease to be of any value whatever. That was especially true with regard to fishing rights. He doubted whether many people had any conception of the potential value of the Irish fisheries which might, owing to the ignorance of the population or to the reckless manner in which the upper waters of rivers were neglected and abused, be rendered valueless. There were miles and miles of fishing which was absolutely unproductive, but which under proper management would become a very valuable property, and would be a means not only of bringing sport to a few landlords who frequented the banks of the river rod in hand, but of bringing large sums of money in the country. Those were two objects they ought not to lose sight of.

There was another point to which he attached the greatest importance, and that was, that, in any settlement of this question of sporting rights, they should be extremely careful, so far as they could, to avoid anything that would lead to future friction between the landlord and the tenant purchaser. How did the Bill propose to deal with this question? It proposed to leave the settlement of the ownership of sporting rights to be disposed of by agreement between the landlord and the tenant purchaser. They had to assume, therefore, there would be a dealing between a willing seller and a willing buyer. If that was so, the individual parties would make their own bargains and insist on their own conditions. What they stipulated in the Bill was, that if the landlord was to be allowed to retain the sole right of sporting, he must at the time of the sale satisfy the Land Commission that he was the owner of an exclusive right. That did not mean that the landlord should prove that he had always held exclusive sporting rights over the property, because he might have had a divided right with his tenants, but that before he closed the transaction with his tenants he must arrive at an arrangement with them, by which it would be recognised that the exclusive rights were his property and not theirs. If a landlord had always enjoyed sporting rights of this kind, he would probably have no great difficulty in coming to terms with his tenants on that basis; if he had not—that was to say, if the sporting rights had hitherto been shared by himself and his tenants—it was obvious that he would have to make terms with his tenants. That, of course, would be a factor in the calculation. The tenant would say, "You must give me better terms if I give up my sporting rights than if you allow me to retain them." There would be the usual chaffer of the market, and the result would be that the exclusive rights would finally belong either to one party or the other. That seemed to him perfectly reasonable.

He looked at the Amendments moved by his noble friends, and he found, both in Lord Dunraven's Amendment and in Lord Donoughmore's Amendment, a proposal that, in default of an agreement to the contrary, the sporting rights were to be vested in a public body, either the Land Commission or the County Council, and Lord Donoughmore proposed that the Land Commission shall offer the same for sale or letting in the first place to the vendor of the estate, and in case the vendor shall refuse to purchase same, then the Land Commission may deal with them as they may think fit. Lord Dunraven had told the House very candidly that he was not too well pleased with the Amendment which he had proposed. He himself was bound to say that both these Amendments, so far as they related to the several divided rights after sale had taken place, seemed to him to be open to serious objection. If the landlord before the sale took place, while he remained the landlord, had not been able to establish an exclusive title to sporting rights, would it really be worth his while to keep alive a divided and imperfect right of shooting over lands which would have passed completely from his possession into the hands of the tenants? An arrangement of that kind seemed to him to be open to objection, for the reason that he had ventured to indicate—namely, that it would inevitably lead to future ill-feeling and friction between the late landlord and the purchasing tenant. Then there was common to both Amendments a proposal that in default of agreement the sporting rights should be vested in some public body. Lord Donoughmore preferred the Land Commission, Lord Dunraven preferred the County Councils He ventured to express a doubt whether it would be altogether expedient to place these sporting rights in the hands of an Irish County Council. He did not think that the warmest friends of the Irish County Councils could pretend for a moment that they possessed the kind of knowledge and experience that would render them good administrators of sporting rights, nor, of course, had they the staff or means of watching over and developing these rights.

He was bound, however, to say, after listening to the arguments of the noble Lord, that it might be advisable to introduce into the Bill some provision under which, where the vendor and the purchaser had failed to agree as to the sporting rights, those sporting rights should pass into the hands of some public body who should be entrusted with them. He would venture to suggest to the consideration of his noble friends, although he was not able to pin himself down to any particular phraseology at the present moment, that they might agree that the third sub-section of Lord Donoughmore's Amendment might run as follows: "In default of any agreement between the tenant and the vendor, all sporting rights shall go to, and be vested in, the Land Commission, and the Land Commission may deal with the same subject to any conditions which may be made by the Lord Lieutenant." That would place the Land Commission provisionally in possession of the sporting rights, which they could deal with, subject to a code of rules and regulations which could be worked out, under the direction of the Irish Government. It might be eventually desirable to make it part of the arrangement that the fishery rights should be taken charge of by the Fishery Board. He threw that out as a suggestion to his noble friends, and he was sincerely desirous that this matter should be thoroughly thought out before a conclusion was arrived at on the subject.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON said, although he had no knowledge of sporting matters in Ireland, he might be pardoned for intervening in the discussion, having regard to his experience of such matters in England. He was bound to say he agreed, as they had all agreed, with the general object of this clause. He should himself prefer, if he understood the clause aright, and if he were a person concerned in the matter, the first sub-section of the clause as it stood in the Bill. It seemed to him that landlords, whether they were in Ireland or in this country, would be much more able to exercise their sporting rights in a satisfactory manner if there was a good understanding between the landlord and the tenant. All sporting rights in this country were the subject of agreement between the landlord and the tenant. So far as his experience went, it was extremely easy for a hostile person in possession of the land over which anyone exercised sporting rights to make those rights absolutely void by secretly destroying and injuring the game upon the land, and it was really, he ventured to submit, an extremely hopeless operation to attempt to preserve game except with the consent of those who dwelt upon the land. Therefore he suggested that if they retained the sub-section as it was in the Bill, they would attain their main object much better than if they were to abandon the basis of an agreement between themselves and those who in the past had been their tenants and in the future would be their neighbours. It would be more in the general spirit of the Act, and tend to promote a more friendly feeling between all classes in Ireland. He should, he confessed, be sorry to see anything which tended to the adoption of a different principle, and to create, as he thought some of the proposals would create, considerable and in many cases permanent difficulties, and wrangle and quarrel between those who had been the landlords, and to whom it was proposed to give the exclusive right of shooting in the future, and those who would become proprietors in the future, who if they had those rights might dispose of them to their own advantage. He could not help thinking that the first paragraph of Clause 13 was the one which would best attain the object which noble Lords had in view. If he were right in his interpretation of Clause 13, and if the arrangement was to be made at the time of sale, that was exactly the moment at which a tenant who was anxious to buy would be most willing to come to an agreement in the matter of sporting rights, which might be unimportant to him, but important to the landlord in many ways. It seemed to him that that would be the most likely way to promote the object they all had in view, and at the same time to promote good feeling between the different parties. In these few observations he had been speaking of sporting rights in connection with game, but with regard to fisheries the matter was a more difficult one. Salmon fisheries, particularly in Ireland, stood upon quite a different footing. He could perfectly well understand that great injury might be done to the owners of fishing rights in the lower river by the destruction of fish in the upper waters, and he knew that the preservation of salmon was a matter not only a private but of great public interest. All he wished to say at this moment was that, with some experience of shooting rights he certainly considered that Clause 13, as it stood in the first section, would prove in practice the most satisfactory arrangement.

*EARL STANHOPE said that everyone in the House recognised the truth of what the noble Marquess had said. It was infinitely better that they should have agreement between the landlord and tenant in the matter of sporting rights. He should imagine that the owners and the Irish people would come to an agreement in most cases. But it seemed to him, notwithstanding that an agreement between the landlord and the tenant was most desirable, there might be cases in which the farms, and even the riparian rights of rivers, were sold where the landlords might increase the demesne round their residences and wish to acquire rights where there had been no previous agreement. He rose to say that he hoped his noble friend would accept what the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had proposed, that in the absence of any agreement a clause might be brought in by which there might be handed over to the Land Commission the sporting rights to dispose of, subject to rules and regulations laid down by the Lord Lieutenant. He trusted his noble friends could see their way to accepting this suggestion.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE asked whether the noble Marquess was prepared to recommend the Government to accept this Amendment if Sub-section 3 was amended in that way.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said that what he proposed to do was: after Sub-section 1, Clause 13, to insert in its amended form Sub-section 3 of the noble Lord's Amendment.

LORD CASTLETOWN said he would like to bring one very small point to the attention of the noble Marquess. He understood the noble Marquess to say that where the landlord could prove that he had exclusive rights he could preserve them, but where he had joint rights he would have to bargain with the tenants As the Bill read at present the bargain was to take place in connection with exclusive rights, and not in connection with concurrent rights at all. What he desired to ask was that the noble Marquess should make it plain that both the exclusive and concurrent rights were to be matters of bargain.

LORD CLONBROCK said he understood the noble Marquess to say that the owner would have to make a private arrangement or bargain with a tenant who had concurrent rights as against exclusive rights. The only thing he wished to ask was this: Was it in the power of the tenant to transfer those concurrent rights or exclusive rights, or were they vested in the tenancy? because it made a considerable difference. It had been mentioned by the noble Marquess that it was open to the landlord to come to an agreement with a tenant who had exclusive rights, or who had concurrent rights, as to the terms of sale. All he wanted to know was whether the tenant had power to convey, or whether the rights vested in the tenancy and not the tenant.

*LORD ASHBOURNE said the tenant had a right to dispose of any rights which were vested in him at the time. Of course, if he had no rights he could not dispose of them, but in the usual course of things he could transfer everything he possessed.

LORD CLONBROCK said that was just the question: Were these rights vested in the tenants or the tenancy?

*LORD ASHBOURNE said he should be disposed to say it was vested in the tenant for the time being of the tenancy.

LORD CLONBROCK said he would just like to say one word upon the case where the rights were in the hands of the tenant in possession. All his tenants had got a separate right, and if he sold his property he would have to purchase those rights from them, and an agreement would then have to be made. That was only the one aspect of the case. Where no agreement was contemplated those rights were to be vested in the Land Commission, as it would be in the case where the owner had not reserved the rights. Of course, every man ought to preserve his rights if he were a wise man, but there were cases where men who, from not having reserved those rights, now saw them passing away from them.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): Will the noble Lord withdraw his Amendment?

*LORD DONOUGHMORE said he only desired to ask the noble Marquess with regard to Sub-section 4.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: If we are to take it paragraph by paragraph we had better take it in order.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said the sub-section pre-supposed that the vendor had an exclusive right. He supposed that meant the exclusive right of the tenant. He knew cases in his part of Ireland where owners had a sporting right exclusive of the tenant, and where superior owners had a concurrent right with him. He suggested that the noble Marquess should accept the words "exclusive of the tenant."

*LORD ASHBOURNE said the noble Lord seemed to have raised quite a new issue which he had not considered. *Primâ facie*, the meaning that he himself would attach to the word "exclusive" was that it meant in the case of a landlord that the landlord had a sporting right exclusive of the tenant. The learned Lord, however, appeared to have another case in his mind which he had not considered, but which he would promise to consider by Report.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he would be glad to accept Sub-section 3 as amended by the noble Marquess, but he would like to know something more about Sub-section 4.

THE EARL OF MORLEY said that if the noble Lord withdrew his Amendment now he could turn his attention to Sub-section 4 afterwards.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said all he wished was not to lose his right to speak on Sub-section 4.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: The noble Lord will not do so.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Surely he cannot speak on Sub-section 4 if the whole Amendment is withdrawn.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: Yes, because he can withdraw his Amendment and afterwards move an Amendment on Sub-section 4.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: I withdraw.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: The Amendment proposed by Lord Lansdowne is, "That in default of any such agreement between the tenants and the vendor, all sporting rights, save those already vested in the vendor, shall go to and be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission may deal with the same subject to any regulations which may be made by the Lord Lieutenant."

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 6, at end, to insert the words 'in default of any such agreement between the tenants and the vendor all sporting rights save those already vested in the vendor shall go to and be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission may deal with the same subject to any regulations which may be made by the Lord Lieutenant.'"—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendments moved—

"In page 8, line 4, to leave out the word 'landlord' and insert the word 'vendor.' Line 5, leave out the word 'tenant' wherever that word occurs and insert the word 'purchaser.' Line 6, to leave out the word 'landlord' and insert the word 'vendor.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: If the noble Lord wants to move a new sub-section now on Sub-section 4 he is in order to do so.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he should very much like to do so, because he was advised by high legal authority that if they did not carry this Amendment they would lose their rights to enter and take all necessary steps for the preservation of game and fish on the lands they had sold. They would be landlords having exclusive rights, but they would be absolutely valueless, because they could not enforce them by employing persons with a view to their preservation.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the noble Lord would no doubt have noticed that Sub-section 4 gave a right to enter on the land.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: For us, but not our employees.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: That point can be considered on the Report.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said the next Amendment was in his name. He had before him three Acts of Parliament dealing with game, and the definition of game differed in all three. The object of the Amendment was to bring all game into the one definition of this Bill. The Acts of Parliament he had were one of William IV., the Ground Game Act of 1870, and the Land Act of 1881, in which there was also a definition of game.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 8, after the word 'land' to insert the words 'and the word "game" shall for all purposes be construed according to the definition thereof in any existing Act of Parliament.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

*LORD ASHBOURNE said they appreciated the object the noble Lord had in seeking to make the definition cover as wide an area as possible. He was told, he did not know, that the Act of 1881 had the widest definition, and perhaps the noble Lord might accept that definition.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said that the Act of 1881 did not include four items included in the Act of William IV. —namely, deer, moor game, black game, and bustards.

*LORD ASHBOURNE said he was told by those more learned in this matter than himself that the widest definition was that in the Act of 1881, but it was obvious that it did not contain some things contained in another Act, and he would consider the matter and deal with it on Report.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said that of course 'deer' was very important.

LORD ASHBOURNE: I admit it.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that the Amendment he now proposed was really proposed with the object of bringing in an Amendment which was further down on the Paper, but he saw that the noble Lord, Lord Dunraven, had an Amendment before his, which perhaps he might like to move.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said his Amendment was really on the wrong line, and did not come in till afterwards.

LORD CASTLETOWN: Then I move my Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 10, to leave out from the word 'or' to the word 'estate' in line 11.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE said the object the noble Lord had in view in this Amendment was entirely opposed to the view under which the Under-Secretary framed the clause and presented it to the House of Commons, by whom it was accepted. If they accepted it, it would be a wide departure from the scope and the intention of the clause, and therefore the noble Duke would be unable to accept it.

LORD CASTLETOWN said it was proposed really with the object of bringing in another Amendment which stood in his name lower down. He would withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said, as the Bill now stood, if an owner was working minerals then he could retain them, but if he was not working them he could not retain them. There were districts in which it was pretty certain, from the geological formation, that minerals existed. It seemed to him to be very hard that a landlord should not be able to reserve his right to a coal seam which he was not then working. Of course, he could refuse to sell, but that would be hard on the tenants, who could not then buy the agricultural part of the estate. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 10, after the word 'estate' to insert the words 'unless the owner of the estate with the consent of the tenants and the Land Commission shall have arranged otherwise.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE said he believed the view of those who had closely considered the matter was that the Amendment of the noble Earl was opposed to the principle which had been proceeded on in respect to this clause. What the noble Earl proposed to put in were the qualifying words "unless the owner of the estate with the consent of the tenants and the Land Commission shall have arranged otherwise." He admitted the reasonableness of the words, which, though suggestive, were carefully prepared, but they were against the principle of the Bill, and were outside the scope of the principle on which the Chief Secretary, who took so prominent a part in the Bill, proceeded, and therefore he hoped the noble Earl would not seek to press his Amendment.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said he was in hopes the words "Land Commission" would make it perfectly clear that the owners would have to prove that the mineral—a vein of coal, for instance—was under the land. He would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 13, after the word 'on' to insert the words 'or under.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD CASTLETOWN said he now came to the corollary of the Amendment which he had moved a short time previously upon this clause. The object of this Amendment, which he put forward with a certain amount of assurance, and certainly with the hope that the Government would consider it in a favourable light, was to ensure that the owner should be compensated for his mineral rights. It had, apparently, been assumed that in Ireland there were no minerals worth preserving, or no minerals being worked. Now it had been found that there were many landlords in Ireland who had large and valuable mineral resources. One gentleman in County Kilkenny, who had developed a large coalfield, was most anxious to do all he could with regard to his property so far as sale was concerned, and was quite willing and prepared to sell to his tenants under certain circumstances. He had asked: "Am I right to sell mineral rights, which are of great value at the present time to me, and of great potential value hereafter to me and my successors, for nothing? I sell to the tenants the land over the mineral deposit, and am told that if I do that I must pass the whole of the minerals over to the Land Commission." These coalfields were of great value, and arrangements were being made to bring two lines of railway down to the estate to bring the coal to the port for shipping, and this gentleman's neighbours were all within the same geological area. Their lands had not yet been opened, but they contended that the mineral deposits on their lands were of great potential value, and that, therefore, they would not sell to their tenants until they had arranged for the value of these mineral deposits. He did not think any person could suggest a fairer Amendment than one which suggested that the landlords should sell their ground, grass tillage, and so on, to the tenant, with the assistance of the Treasury and the Land Commission, but that they should be allowed to say, "I have underground a thing of great value which I will sell or retain in my own hands. If I sell it to the Land Commission, I will sell it on such terms as I think fair." The Amendment was a very fair one, and he hoped it would be accepted. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 15, after the word 'Parliament' to insert the words 'provided that the Land Commission may acquire upon such terms as may be agreed upon and may be sanctioned by the Treasury any such rights of mining and taking minerals on any estate which is being sold by an owner under the Land Purchase Acts.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE said he did not wish to comment upon the Amendment now, but if it was accepted now there should be other Amendments made on the Report. The position of these mines to which the noble Lord had referred, and of which he was aware himself, was, of course, both interesting and important.

LORD CASTLETOWN: There are other mines in Antrim and other parts in Ireland.

LORD ASHBOURNE said of course now Ireland was a most developing country. They were discovering all sorts of things. The matter had not been lost sight of, because an Amendment which appeared lower down on the Paper, and which would be opposed subsequently, proved that under certain circumstances mines or minerals which were worked after the Bill was passed should pay a royalty of 50 per cent. The Chief Secretary had considered the position, and was prepared to make a concession on the Amendment when moved.

Lord CASTLETOWN said the next Amendment was only to deal with royalties. This Amendment was to deal with the sale of mining rights.

Lord ASHBOURNE said if the minerals were being worked at the time of sale the question would not arise. If they were handed over to a syndicate of course a different state of things would arise, but in the Amendment which was to be moved he would be able to make a statement in regard to the matter.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

***The Earl of DONOUGHMORE**: The noble and learned Lord said that he was ready to make some concession on the matter and therefore I need not address the House on this Amendment, I will formally move it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 20, to leave out from the word 'Crown' to the end of Sub-section 3, and insert the words 'Provided also that where any such right reserved to the Land Commission under this sub-section is at any time hereafter let, leased, sold, or demised by them, the vendor (or the person who would have been entitled thereto if the lands had not been sold) shall be entitled to receive 50 per cent. of any rent, purchase-money, or other net profit received by the Land Commission in respect of same, unless the Land Commission shall have purchased from the person entitled to such percentage his interest therein, and the Land Commission may purchase such interest at any time on such terms as may be sanctioned by the Treasury."—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

Lord ASHBOURNE said that the Chief Secretary had considered this matter very carefully in conjunction with the noble Duke and regarded it as a very important subject. The Amendment standing in the name of the Duke of Manchester moved by the noble Lord was to secure a royalty to the persons who would have been entitled to the minerals if the land had not been sold, of 50 per cent. His right hon. friend was ready to fix the percentage at 25 per cent. instead of 50. That was a very large amount, but it had been agreed to by the Duke of Devonshire.

***The Earl of DONOUGHMORE** said that he was obliged to the noble Lord, but as he supposed that he would not advance upon that he would not bargain with him.

Lord ASHBOURNE said that there was just one thing that he ought to mention. This Amendment would have to go in after line 21, and it was most important that that line should be preserved; if it were put in at the end of line 20 it would exclude line 21, and that he could not agreed to.

Lord CASTLETOWN: That is the line vesting in the Crown?

Lord ASHBOURNE: Yes.

Lord CASTLETOWN asked if this Amendment governed the case of those owners who had sunk pits on their land and who had already dealt with their mineral properties, whether those properties passed direct to the Land Commission. That was the point that they wanted to get at in the interest both of themselves and the tenants.

Lord ASHBOURNE said that he would think over the matter, he had not considered it, but he promised to consider it before the Report stage.

Lord CASTLETOWN asked whether he understood his noble friend would have an Amendment on the Paper on the Report, dealing with the subject.

Lord ASHBOURNE said that at present he did not think that an Amendment was necessary, but if, on consideration, he thought that one was necessary he would put an Amendment down.

Lord CASTLETOWN said that supposing the noble Lord had lands with large and valuable coal fields under them would he like to pass them over to somebody else for nothing?

Lord ASHBOURNE: No, I should not!

On Question, Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

The Earl of DUNRAVEN said that the Amendment that he proposed to move was a mere drafting Amendment. The words first mentioned in the clause would refer only to one right—the right of entering, but the words "any such" would refer to all, he begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 24, to leave out the words 'the first mentioned' and insert the words 'any such.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven.*)

Lord ASHBOURNE said that it was much more than a drafting Amendment, and that he could not agree to it.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 14.

Lord MONTEAGLE of BRANDON said the object of the next Amendment almost explained itself, the clause in question was introduced into the House of Commons in redemption of a pledge given by the Chief Secretary, in answer to a Question put during the passage of the Bill through the House, to provide that ancient monuments should not pass into the hands of small occupiers, but should vest in some public body. He was thankful to see the principle recognised in the clause that this should be done, but the clause would not carry out that object because it only proposed to hand over these monuments to the Board of Works if it was willing to take them. But the Board of Works was not willing to take them in a great number of cases, because they had no means to maintain them, and in that case the monuments would remain in the hands of small occupiers. His Amendment gave an alternative by which they might be vested, if the Board of Works refused to take them, in the County Councils. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 36, after the word 'Commissioners,' to insert as a new sub-section the words." 2. Where the said Commissioners withhold such consent the Land Commission may, with the consent of the County Council, make an order vesting the monument in the latter body under the provisions of Section 19 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.'"—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

Lord ASHBOURNE was not sure whether his noble friend had considered the position in respect to ancient monuments and the County Councils. Everybody sympathised entirely with the wish that these ancient monuments could be preserved in Ireland, but in the Bill there was no power to vest them in the County Councils. If the noble Lord would, however, withdraw his Amendment, he would consider the matter on Report.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15.

Amendment moved—

"In page 9, line 25, after the word 'Acts' to insert the words 'to tenants.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord MACNAGHTEN said that before the clause was added to the Bill he would like to ask the noble and learned Lord Chancellor for Ireland what it meant, because there was considerable apprehension felt as to the meaning of this clause, and he had not been able to find anybody who had been able to explain it to him. There was a general apprehension that it might mean that if the tenants, without the knowledge of the landlord and contrary to the conditions of the tenancy, created an interest by way of a sub-tenancy, that when the landlord sold he might have to compensate out of the money received from the sale the sub-tenant for improvements created by him under the sub-lease.

Lord ASHBOURNE said he need not tell their Lordships that when a Member of their Lordships' House, of the obvious comprehension and learning of his noble and learned friend, felt confused, he must endeavour to do something to assist him out of the state of uncertainty in which he found himself. He had read the clause with every attention, and with every desire to approach it from the standpoint of his noble friend, and he was constrained to admit that he had been unable to get in any way perplexed by it. He took it to mean that supposing a tenant on an estate was in possession of a holding of fifty acres, say at the rental of £1 per acre, and supposing that he made a sub-letting of ten acres at £2 an acre, which would result in a profit rental to him of £10, this section, which was for the purposes of carrying out the sale, enabled the sub-tenant to be recognised as the tenant who was entitled to become the purchaser of the holding of ten acres at £2 an acre as let by the direct tenant, who was entitled to be compensated in order that all the intervening interests could be purchased. When one came to consider who the owners of intervening interests were, one found oneself confronted in the first place with the tenant who made the sub-letting at a profit rental of £10, who became the owner of an intervening interest to the extent of being in receipt of that sum at the time the sale was made. He would have to get compensation, and get it from the same source from which all other owners received that which was the purchase price of the holding.

LORD CASTLETOWN: Who gets the bonus ?

LORD ASHBOURNE said that the noble Lord had started another question altogether. He had not considered the question, but he supposed the bonus would go to the owner who, for the purpose of this section, would become the direct landlord of the direct tenant, who, for this purpose, became the direct purchaser of the land.

Clause 15, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 16 agreed to.

Clause 17.

LORD CASTLETOWN said the Amendment he proposed to move was a drafting Amendment. The words in the clause were vague, and he now ventured to put in these words. The object of the Amendment was to ensure that the person who sold the estate should not be a mortgagee in possession. It would be a great hardship if a mortgagee should come in and sell an estate at a low price merely for the sake of getting the bonus and going off with it, thereby diminishing the other interests. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 33, after the word 'person,' to insert the words 'other than a mortgagee in possession.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE said he had got sympathy with the object of the noble Lord, but he could not see how the Amendment met his views. A mortgagee at present had very great powers no doubt. He would, however, look into the matter.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 4, after the word 'person' to insert the words 'not under disability.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD DUNBOYNE said the object of this Amendment was to provide that the person next entitled should have due notice. It sometimes happened that the owner expectant was not a direct successor, and it might happen that the owner in possession would have very special interest in his successor and that he might think more of his own interest and getting the bonus than the man in remainder. He trusted there were not many such but they were bound to regard contingencies, and the Amendment he proposed prevented the possibility of the sale of an estate at a price under value, because it would enable the person entitled to come in and show cause, if he thought fit, that an improper or improvident sale was being made. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In Page 11, line 10, after the word 'obtained' to insert the words 'Provided that the person next entitled in remainder expectant on the determination of the estate of the vendor at the time of the proposed sale shall have due notice of the sale, and be etitled to appear and object.'"—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN hoped the Government would accept the Amendment. It would only affect very few persons. It could not inflict any extra cost on the Treasury and might be of great service.

THE EARL OF BELMORE said that notice was supposed to be given, but it was given in such a manner as to be absolutely useless. The remainder-man on his estate had never received any real notice. He inquired the other day how notice was given, and was informed that there were certain rules published in newspapers which, he supposed, were never looked at by anybody. This kind of proceeding reminded him of a saying of Daniel O'Connell that the best way of keeping a secret was to put it into the *Dublin Gazette*. If the Amendment was to be adopted he hoped that the rules of the Court would be so altered that the notice might be a real one.

*THE EARL OF WESTMEATH inquired how far the Amendment would go. If any objection was taken by the remainder-man would they have any further redress?

LORD DUNBOYNE replied that the Land Commissioners might take notice of the objection. It was true they did not act in a judicial capacity, but he thought they might act judicially in so far as they could interfere and stop the sale. That was the intention of the Amendment.

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON asked whether the Amendment would not bring the remainder-man under the zones? If so, it would be a most disastrous result. He was not a lawyer, but he was informed by legal friends that such would be the case, and if it were so, and the remainder-man were brought into these transactions, they would have this obstruction at the outset of every sale. He was sure the noble Lord who moved the Amendment did not wish that.

LORD ASHBOURNE said he did not think it would be held to be obstruction for them to give every legitimate notice that could be required, to let persons know that their interests might be affected. As he understood the Amendment, the object of it was to secure that adequate notice should be given, so far as possible, to those whose interests would require such legitimate protection as might be afforded by letting them know what was going on. But if the noble Lord looked at the closing part of the clause, he would find that his Amendment was unnecessary, and that abundant care was taken that the attention of the Land Commissioners should be directed to the necessity of giving notice by means of advertisement of their proceedings.

LORD DUNBOYNE asked and obtained leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 17, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 18.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE moved to insert at Clause 18, page 11, line 13, after "1896," the words "which interest shall be at a rate of not less than 3½ per cent. per annum." He said this was an Amendment in order that interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. should be paid to vendors under Sub-section 2 of the clause. Under the existing law the interest had to be fixed by agreement, and it had been 4 per cent. The Amendment was necessary for the protection of the Treasury, because if they were to receive less it would be at the loss of the Exchequer.

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 13, after '1896,' to insert the words 'which interest shall be at a rate of not less than 3½ per cent. per annum.'"

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD CLONBROCK moved to insert at page 11, line 18, after "holdings," the following new sub-section:—"(2) The value of such arrears of rent, if not agreed upon between the vendor and the Land Commission, shall be fixed by the Judicial Commissioner, and shall be paid by the Land Commission to the vendor over and above the purchase money of the lands" He said that the Amendment provided that the sum of money for arrears to be fixed by agreement between the vendor and the Land Commission should, if they would not agree, be fixed by the Judicial Commissioner, and should be paid by the Land Commission to the vendor, irrespective of the purchase money for the land. It was already provided that the Land Commission should pay 3½ per cent. interest on the purchase money, and that if the sale became inoperative an account should be made between the vendor and the Land Commission, and any interest already received by the vendor should be refunded, but there was no provision made for an account of arrears received or remitted by the Land Commission. He wished to have words inserted providing that arrears should be taken into account, and that after they had been taken into account and fixed they should be recoverable.

Amendment moved—

"In page 11, line 18, after the word 'holdings' to insert the following new Sub-section: '(2.) The value of such arrears of rent, if not agreed upon between the vendor and the Land Commission, shall be fixed by the Judicial Commissioner, and shall be paid by the Land Commission to the vendor over and above the purchase-money of the lands.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE remarked that if the Amendment were carried it would introduce, for the first time, an already overburdened Judge into the mechanism of accounts—namely, the Judicial Commissioner. There was not a man more hardly worked in Ireland, and he should look with some hesitation to the placing upon his shoulders of any burden to which he would have to apply his judicial mind. It would not be reasonable to ask him to assume the burden of assessing the arrears. The purchase of an estate must always be for a lump sum, including the value and arrears, and to seek to divide it and make calculations and sub-divisions would be against that primary idea. The purchase under any sound system should be for a lump sum, which the parties could arrive at by some means, by the rough sense of intuition or the rule of thumb, and it would not be desirable to work out these calculations.

LORD CLONBROCK stated that it was important to remember that in the case of a settled estate the purchase money would be realty and go to the inheritors, whilst the arrears would be personalty.

LORD CASTLETOWN pointed out that under the section itself the arrears were to be handed over to the Land Commission, and they would collect as much as they pleased. Supposing the rents were £20,000 and the arrears £15,000, those arrears would go to the tenant for life, and if they were taken by the Land Commission the latter would have £15,000 for doing absolutely nothing. Lord Ashbourne had very glibly treated the sums in bulk, but there could never be any sale in bulk, and there never had been such a sale. It had always been a question of a sale to tenants for a certain sum, and the arrears had been dealt with afterwards. As a rule, arrangements were made either for the arrears to be remitted by the owner or some arrangement by which the arrears were paid to the seller and afterwards agreed upon. The question was a fair one and deserved consideration.

*LORD ASHBOURNE said he was impressed by the allegation of a part going in the case of settled lands one way and part to a different hand. That was a matter he should consider in connection with the Amendment.

LORD CLONBROCK asked and obtained leave to withdraw the Amendment in view of the promise of Lord Ashbourne.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19.

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 3, to leave out the word 'had' and insert the word 'have.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20.

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 6, leave out the word 'of' and insert the words 'mentioned in.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 20 as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21 agreed to.

Clause 22.

LORD CASTLETOWN said he moved to omit Clause 22 for the reason that it dealt entirely with questions of boundaries of the holdings, easements, or appurtenances claimed by any proprietors against any other proprietors or tenants of holdings, and placed the burden of examining into and settling these matters on the Land Commissioners. The Commissioners already had a great deal of work to do. Formerly all these questions of boundaries, easements, and appurtenances were dealt with in Ireland, as in England by the ordinary County Courts. Some feeling might be aroused amongst the parties because they would have to go up to Dublin and squabble, whereas they might go into the County Courts and settle the matter there at very little expense. It was not a very serious Amendment, and he begged the Government to accept it.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 22."—(*Lord Castletown.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said that the clause was inserted in the Bill to save time and expense, and it could in no respect be inferior in its operations, because the Land Commission could only determine questions under it at the request of all parties concerned. It was much better to have the questions settled at the time of sale than to have them settled by Courts of law afterwards.

LORD CASTLETOWN asked and obtained leave to withdraw the Amendment

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 22 agreed to.

Clause 23.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN moved to leave out of page 13, line 10, from the word "any" to the end of paragraph, and insert the words—"person aggrieved by any decision of an Estates Commissioner sitting alone may require his case to be reconsidered by the three Estates Commissioners sitting together, and any person interested may require that any question of law shall be referred to the decision of a Judicial Commissioner." He thought this Amendment was very necessary as there was no provision in the Bill as it stood that the Estates Commissioners should sit together, and the right of appeal on a point of law to the Judicial Commissioner was only permitted to be exercised in cases where the Estates Commissioners might decide that the point was not a frivolous one. Such a restriction of the right of appeal was manifestly unfair, because Mr. Wyndham had stated in the House of Commons that the Estates Commissioners were only to perform administrative duties and were not to interfere with legal points. It might be argued that the powers given to the Estates Commissioners were exactly similar to those given to magistrates, but in the first place magistrates had jurisdiction over points of law and the right to decide them, powers which were not vested in the Estates Commissioners at all. Again, if a magistrate refused to state a case an application could be made to the Court of King's Bench for a rule to call upon the magistrate to state a case. There was no similar right of appeal under this section, and why should greater powers be given to the Estates Commissioners, who were purely administrative officers, and were in no way responsible for their legal proceedings.

Amendment moved—

"In page 13, line 10, to leave out from the word 'any' to the end of the paragraph and insert the words 'person aggrieved by any decision of an Estates Commissioner sitting alone may require his case to be reconsidered by the three Estates Commissioners sitting together, and any person interested may require that any question of law shall be referred for the decision of a Judicial Commissioner.' "—(*The Duke of Abercorn.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said the Amendment did not appear to be necessary because the Estates Commissioners were not a Court. The Bill provided that in cases where it was necessary there should be a reference to the Judicial Commissioner on any point of law unless the application to refer was a frivolous one. The other questions to which the noble Duke's Amendment applied were not questions of law, and as the Estates Commissioners were not a Court of law it did not seem possible to give an appeal from a decision of one set of Commissioners to the other.

* THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said they felt it very hard that the Estates Commissioners, who were laymen, should have the right to decide whether an appeal upon a legal point was frivolous. That was the whole point of the Amendment, and it might cause both landlords

and tenants very great injury if it was left to laymen to decide a point of law.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said that very often the questions which arose were mixed questions of fact and law. The Estates Commissioners would have the power to allocate the purchase money of estates to the persons entitled to it, and to settle all the different interests. The questions which arose were sometimes questions more of law than of fact, and it seemed strange that laymen, and not lawyers, not bound to give any reason for what they did, should be able to decide these questions without any possibility of appeal. There certainly ought to be a right of appeal.

* LORD ASHBOURNE observed that those who put forward the Amendments were not keeping in mind the scheme by which the Estates Commissioners were appointed, and that it was mainly intended that they should carry out a great executive transaction. The appeal to the Judicial Commissioner was a great safeguard. It was suggested that the right of appeal was weakened by putting in the qualifying words, "Unless, in the opinion of the Estates Commissioners, the application is frivolous." These words were familiar in stating cases from statutes relating to petty sessions Courts. He did not think that any tribunal ever dealt lightly or carelessly with the powers entrusted to them, and it would be a scandalous abuse for any man to refuse to consider a case and refer questions of law to the proper tribunal, especially when they were presented to him supported by legal arguments or opinions, and everything to show the soundness of the belief. On the other hand, it might well be that any man of common sense would be able to see, without any legal training or acuteness, that the question was not put forward as one of legal substance, but in a very frivolous way, which suggested that it was more a seeking to gain time than anything else. The section as it was framed was quite *bona fide*, and it was framed with a keen desire to give an appeal on a question of law.

LORD DUNBOYNE pointed out that the Estates Commissioners were to be the persons who were to say whether or not an application for a reference on a question of law was frivolous, and they were the persons against whose decision the appeal would lie. Would it meet the view of the Government if an appeal were given in the event of the Court of Appeal consenting? There were instances in which no appeal could be made except on application to a Judge in chambers, and if the Judge refused the appeal the party would go to the Court of Appeal and ask for leave to appeal. Some provision of that kind should be inserted in the clause, so that in the event of the Estates Commissioners refusing leave to appeal, the application could be made either to the Judicial Commissioner or the Court of Appeal.

* LORD CASTLETOWN suggested that the words, "Unless in the opinion of the Estates Commissioners the application is frivolous" should be struck out of the clause.

* LORD ASHBOURNE said it would be found in the appeal section that the appeal on questions of law was given unless the Estates Commissioners thought it frivolous.

* THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: We want that out.

* LORD ASHBOURNE replied that the provision worked adequately and without any abuse. He did not anticipate any likelihood or possibility of abuse. No one holding a responsible office would refuse to grant an appeal on a real question of law.

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 60: Not-Contents, 63.

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THE EARL OF ROSSE moved to insert in page 13, line 10, after "law" the words "the Land Judge or" and after "Commissioners" the words "as the case may be." The object of the Amendment was to provide specifically that the Land Judge should be consulted by the Land Commissioners in the carrying out of the provisions of Sub-section 8.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 14, line 3, after the word 'with' to insert the words 'the Land Judge or,' and after the word 'Commissioners' to insert the words 'as the case may be.'"—(*The Earl of Rosse.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE understood that the Amendment was to enable the Land Judge to be consulted as to the employment of officers of the Land Commission. The noble Lord had not given any reasons for the introduction of the Amendment and he (the Duke of Devonshire) did not know why it was supposed to be desirable. Another Amendment standing in the name of the noble Duke, which provided that "all officers of the Land Judge's Court (including clerks in the Receivers' Department of not less than ten years standing) shall be eligible for employment by the Estates Commissioners under this sub-section," was quite unnecessary, because anybody was eligible.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

*The EARL of WESTMEATH said he wished to propose an Amendment to page 14 line 12, by inserting after the word "Commissioners" the words "or any other vendor." The Amendment was originally moved in another place, where it had a somewhat chequered career. It was moved in the Committee stage and withdrawn in order that it might be considered in the Report stage, but nothing was heard of it then. He therefore thought it best to bring it forward in order to give the Government an opportunity of explaining the position. The object of the Amendment was to make the provisions of Sub-section 10 applicable to sales by the landlord direct to the tenant as well as to sales of estates by the Land Commissioners. The advantages given under this sub-section to sales by the Land Commissioners to the tenants ought to be extended to sales direct from landlord to tenant.

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 12, after the word 'Commissioners' to insert the words 'or any other vendor.'"—(*The Earl of Westmeath.*)

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON said the Amendment would be a great advantage to the Estates Commissioners because the effect of the clause would then be to hold out great inducements to all landlords to sell. As the sub-section stood it made the expenses of negotiations in the cases of sales to and by the Land Commissioners part of the expenses of the Land Commission. If the Amendment were accepted, a great part of the work could be undertaken by the landlords negotiating direct with their tenants. He supported the Amendment.

*LORD ASHBOURNE said the Amendment was one that would make a new and wide departure from the principles of the Bill. The clause it was sought to amend made liberal provisions with regard to sales to the Estates Commissioners and sales by the Commissioners to tenants and others. It would be going outside the fair scope of the administration of an Act of Parliament to provide not only for the costs incurred by officials but also for the costs of sales by a private vendor to his own immediate tenants. That would indeed be a far-reaching departure, and would involve great expense. He had great sympathy with the persons whom the noble Earl sought to assist, but he did not see his way to grace any recognition of that sympathy.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he felt somewhat diffident about calling his next Amendment a verbal one, having regard to the way in which the noble and learned Lord (Lord Ashbourne) had jumped on him. He proposed to leave out from the word "Commissioners" in line 20, page 14, to the word "make" in line 23, and insert "and the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland, or a majority of them, if such majority includes the Judicial Commissioner, may, subject to the approval of the Lord Lieutenant." The point was that the rules which were to be made would be largely concerned with questions of law, and as the sub-section now stood the lay Commissioners might decide against the Judicial Commissioner on them. That might have very unfair results quite apart from the intention of the Estates Commissioners, because he was sure they would not do such a thing willingly. If the Amendment were carried the Judicial Commissioner, if he were not a member of the majority, would have a veto. This would influence the smooth working of the Bill and make it absolutely certain that no injustice would be done to anybody.

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 20, to leave out from the word 'Commissioners' to the word 'make' in line 23 and insert the words 'and the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland, or a majority of them, if such majority includes the Judicial Commissioner, may, subject to the approval of the Lord Lieutenant."'—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

*LORD ASHBOURNE said that although not of overwhelming importance the Amendment would make a substantial departure from the clause as drafted, although the constituent elements were found in both. The Government proposal was that the rules should be drafted by the Judicial Commissioner and the Estates Commissioners, subject to the approval of the Lord Lieutenant, and after consultation with the President of the Incorporated Law

Society of Ireland. It was very difficult to conceive that in all questions of making important rules, for the regulation of the Department, the greatest respect would not be shown, to the opinion of the Judicial Commissioner. It was not suggested that there should be any change regarding the Lord Lieutenant, but there was a change, though not a great one, proposed with regard to the President of the Incorporated Law Society. As the head of the solicitors' profession, it was quite reasonable and wise that he should be consulted with respect to these questions. It was, however, suggested that he should have a direct voice in regard to the making of rules. He (Lord Ashbourne) thought the Bill, as drafted, was quite adequate, From his experience in presiding over the making of rules, he would say that there was no tendency to rush them through, or not to weigh all arguments.

*EARL DONOUGHMORE said the point of his Amendment was that in the making of these rules, if there should be a division, the Judicial Commissioner should be in the majority, but having regard to what had been said by the noble and learned Lord, he would not press his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 15, line 14, to leave out the words 'or order as the case may be,' and insert the words 'for sale.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 15, line 17, to leave out the words 'Estates Commissioners' and insert the words Land Commission.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN moved an Amendment, page 16, line 13, to leave out "to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Treasury." His object was to get a definite idea as to what costs were to be defrayed by the Land Commission

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or by the vendors. The sub-section provided that the—

> "Land Commission may cause their officers to make such investigations, and perform such other duties, as may be requisite and practicable, for the purpose of ascertaining title to and distributing the purchase money, and such ascertainment and distribution shall, to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Treasury."

This was a matter of enormous importance because the uncertainty as to the amount of the expenses, for which they would be made liable through the investigation which the Land Commission or their officers might think necessary, was more likely to deter landlords from selling than anything else. It was of vital importance to the Bill that the landlords should have a tolerably accurate idea of what their proportion of the costs would be. Nobody had the slightest idea of what the sub-section meant, or what investigation would satisfy the Land Commission. Those investigations were not to be made at the expense of the persons entitled to the purchase money, except to such an extent as the Treasury thought fit. That was entirely vague.

Amendment moved —

> "In page 16, line 13, to leave out the words 'to such a extent as may be sanctioned by the Treasury.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven*).

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said the effect of the Amendment as it stood would be to provide that the distribution of the purchase money should be entirely free of charge to the vendor. The Government would not agree to the proposal. He was afraid that he was not able, without notice, to give any further explanation of the sub-section, but would only say, as had been pointed out repeatedly, that the body of Estate Commissioners would be an administrative body acting under the directions of the Government. The clause provided that they or their officers should give all the assistance they could in cheapening the legal proceedings incidental to the transfer of estates and the distribution of the purchase money. So far as they were able to do that the clause signified that it was the intention of the Government that they should use their staff as much as possible for the purposes of administration, subject to the regulations made by the Treasury. He did not think his noble friend could possibly expect it would be in his power to enter into a fuller explanation of the manner in which it was intended that that duty should be discharged by the Estates Commissioners. The staff would be made use of without unnecessary expense to the public.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN did not wish to press the matter, but he regretted that the noble Duke could not give the information asked for. He presumed that when the sub-section was adopted the Government must have had some sort of an idea what it meant, and he should be very much gratified if they would inform him what it did mean. Perhaps the noble Duke would give them some information on the subject on the Report stage.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I will try to do so.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD CASTLETOWN moved to insert after "charge," page 16, line 18, the following: "where since the 1st of April, 1903, for the purpose of ascertaining title and distributing the purchase money of estates intended to be sold under this Act, any fees have been paid in the Local Registration of Title Office, Registry of Deeds, and Registry of Judgments, the sum so paid shall, on the certificate of the Land Commission, be refunded to the landlord or other person who may have paid the same." The Amendment provided for reimbursing those landowners who had made arrangements for the selling of their estates by placing them on the files of the Registry Office at Dublin. A great number of estates had been prepared for sale, and many landowners had already made their titles under the registration system. It would be rather hard on them if the sales did go through that the sums they would otherwise receive back on the passage of this Bill should not be refunded.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE remarked that the proposal was one to which he, speaking on behalf of the Treasury, could not consent.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE proposed an Amendment in order to make clear the incorporated sections of the Land Clauses Act, 1845, which specifically applied to the purchase money of estates.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 30, after the word 'prescribed,' to insert the words 'as if the purchase money distributable under this section were money paid or deposited under those sections.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 37, to leave out the word 'the' and insert 'a.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE proposed an Amendment providing that any question of law might go to the House of Lords as the ultimate Court of Appeal.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 38, after the word 'appealed' to insert the words 'on any question other than one of law.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 24, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 25.

THE EARL OF ARRAN said he proposed an Amendment with the object of getting that peace, which was now coming all over Ireland, extended to mortgagees. Under Clause 16 of the Bill the Land Commission, when buying land, had power to vest the land in itself by an order, and attach all claims there might be to the purchase money. Under Clause 24, where lands were sold direct to the tenants, the Land Commission would make an order of similar import. In these circumstances the orders fixed a closing day, and Sub-section 2 of Clause 25 provided that anyone who made a claim against the purchase money and had not established his claim before the closing day—

"And if a portion of the purchase money equivalent to the amount of his claim has not been invested in pursuance of the powers conferred by Sub-section 1 of Section 14 of the Act of 1887, then, until his title is established, interest in respect of the claim shall not be payable at a higher rate than the rate payable by the Land Commission to the National Debt Commissioners in respect of outstanding advances."

That interest was at the rate of 2¾ per cent. per annum. The Amendment he proposed was instead of the words "making a claim" to insert "whose claim has been so attached to." As the clause stood in the the event of any mortgagee not chosing to make a claim, his money would remain at the higher rate of interest at which it was originally invested, say 4 per cent. or 5 per cent., but after the closing day the landlord would only be receiving 2¾ per cent. If the Amendment were accepted, with two others, it would bridge automatically any references to encumbrances which had been attached to purchase money under Clauses 16 and 12.

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, lines 4 and 5, to leave out the words 'making a claim upon,' and insert the words 'whose claim has been so attached to.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

LORD ASHBOURNE said he regarded the Amendment as unnecessary because already under Clause 16 all claims against the land were attached to the purchase money. If a mortgagee had a charge upon lands which were being sold and also upon other lands, the matter was one which required to be dealt with before a sale could reasonably be carried out, and the Land Commission were empowered to apportion the mortgage that fell upon the land sold. That was the obvious necessity, and it was clearly provided for. But what right had the Commission to exercise any functions over charges that were not apportioned to lands under their jurisdiction and that could not possibly affect them. There was no jurisdiction unless an Act of Parliament could enforce it, and they had no right to do anything that was not just.

THE EARL OF ARRAN pointed out that whereas under the present conditions the mortgagee was only paid 2¾ per cent. he would be able to proceed against the landlord for the balance of whatever rate of interest he might have been receiving.

The Earl of Arran.

LORD ASHBOURNE said the Land Commission were given power to deal with the mortgagee on land sold and therefore under jurisdiction. What right had the Commission to make an order on land with which they had no concern. That would be most unjust and would not be reasonable.

THE EARL OF ARRAN urged that if the whole property were sold would not the mortgagee be able to proceed for the difference of any profit between 5 per cent. and 2¾ per cent.

LORD ASHBOURNE thought the noble Earl must have some special case of his own in mind and wanted an opinion of authority that he might use in reference to the matter. He would suggest to the noble Earl that there was a reasonable way of appealing to professional advisers for guidance.

THE EARL OF ARRAN denied that he had any particular case in mind. It was merely a question of law as regarded the Bill. He must press his Amendment.

LORD ASHBOURNE said he did not desire that there should be any misconception on the matter. If the noble Earl would tell him of a concrete case he should be glad to listen to him, but it was hardly a matter on which to divide the House.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: I should like to divide on the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 10, after the word 'claim,' to insert the words 'or so much thereof as may be directed to be discharged out of the purchase money.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 11, after the word 'payable,' to insert the words 'out of the purchase money, or recoverable under any agreement or covenant, or chargeable on any other lands or securities which may be subject to such claim along with the lands sold.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN moved an Amendment providing that in the case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts a vendor should be entitled to pay off any charge or encumbrance thereon notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any of these or other instruments to the contrary. The object of the Amendment was to enable the vendor to pay off at once, out of the purchase money, any charge or encumbrance on an estate. Certain mortgages contained that regulation and if the landlord were to continue to pay a high rate of interest to the encumbrancer, whilst receiving only a low rate himself he would be a loser. The policy of the Bill was to enable landlords to sell and he therefore hoped the Government would not see any objection to the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

'In page 17, line 13, after the word 'advances,' to insert the words 'provided that in case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts a vendor shall be entitled to pay off any charge or incumbrance thereon notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or other instrument to the contrary.' "—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said he was advised that the Amendment was unnecessary. Sub-section 1 of Clause 16 attached all claims against land and Sub-section 5 of Clause 24 required the Land Commission to distribute the purchase money to the persons entitled thereto. These provisions would override any provisions in a mortgage as to paying off encumbrances.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 25, as amended, agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE moved the insertion of a new clause which he said was necessary in order to enable the estate of a lunatic to be sold under the Land Purchase Acts.

Amendment proposed—

"After Clause 25 to insert as a new clause, the words 'Where a person who would otherwise be entitled to sell land under the Land Purchase Acts is a lunatic, the Lord Chancellor may order the land to be sold as if the sale was required for one of the purposes mentioned in section sixty-three of the Lunacy Regulation (Ireland) Act, 1871, and that section shall apply accordingly.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 26 agreed to.

Clause 27.

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 29, after the word 'equalled' to insert the words 'half yearly or.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 27, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 34 agreed to.

Clause 35.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said there were five consecutive Amendments to Clause 35 which were of a purely verbal nature.

Amendment moved—

"In page 19, line 28, to leave out the words 'in so far as any' and insert the word 'where.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 19, line 29, to leave out the words 'to purchasers to be repaid by means of purchase annuities.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 19, line 41, to leave out the words 'purchase of the land' and insert the words 'vesting of the land in the Commission.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 20, line 17, to leave out the words 'repayable by means of purchase annuities' and insert the words 'on which such 10s. per cent. is payable by the Land Commission.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 20, line 25, to leave out the words 'repayable by means of purchase annuities,' and insert the words 'on which such 10s. per cent. is payable by the Land Commission.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 35, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 36 agreed to.

Clause 37.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE proposed an Amendment to Clause 37 which provided that the £50,000 should not be carried to the purchase fund for more than four years.

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 3, to leave out the word 'eight' and insert the word 'seven.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 37, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 38.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE proposed an Amendment to Clause 38 which he said was necessary in order to secure that the redemption money of superior interests owned by Trinity College, Dublin, should be invested in investments approved of by the Public Trustee.

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 36, after the word 'made' to insert the words 'and may only be varied.'" (*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said the next Amendment dealt with a complicated subject, but it was one of very great importance to those concerned. It was very complicated, but he would endeavour to put it as clearly and as briefly as he possibly could. The gist of Clause 38 lay in the fact that £5000 a year had been set aside out of the Irish Development Grant in order to reimburse any losses which Trinity College, Dublin, might make through their middlemen who paid them head-rents. He thought that Trinity College had come out of it very well, and were to be congratulated on the position that they had made for themselves. He was now addressing the Committee on behalf of the people who held from Trinity College, who had to pay a head-rent, and who would be in a most uncomfortable, and almost impossible position by the passing of this Bill. The state of affairs was this. Trinity College owned about 200,000 acres, of which 150,000 were held by people he might call the landlord class, who paid Trinity College a head-rent, and in their turn had sub-let to occupiers, who nearly all held under judicial tenancies. The rents that the middlemen paid to Trinity College were perpetuity rents and were governed by the Trinity College Leasing and Perpetuity Act, 1851, by which they were variable every ten years under a certain process which it was not necessary for him to describe, but by which, under the terms of that Act, the College had raised the rents, perfectly fairly, of the perpetuity tenants, altogether as much as an average of 31 per cent. since the passing of the Act of 1851. On the other hand, since the Act of 1851 was passed, the judicial tenants of the middlemen had had their rents reduced as much as 44 per cent., and that would explain to their Lordships the position in which the middlemen found themselves, for their rents had been increased by 31 per cent. and the rents they received had been reduced by 44 per cent. In these circumstances it was absolutely necessary to ask their lordships, in order to make sales possible under this Bill that there should be introduced into the Bill such provisions as would enable Trinity College, Dublin to abate their rents.

He was going to quote a case in a moment which he thought would show that without some such provision, all the tenants occupying under the lessees of Trinity College, Dublin, would be absolutely cut out from the benefits of this Bill; as it would be impossible for the perpetuity tenants or middlemen to sell on such sufficient terms as would leave any margin at all. The cases he would quote were as follows: The first case was that of a Member of their Lordships' House, whose rentals from tenants before the passing of the Act of 1851 amounted to £5,826, and for that he paid as the head-rent to the College £1952, so th t the College received a head-rent of 30 per cent. of the rents from the tenants to the middleman. Those of their Lordships who had experience in such matters well knew that 30 per cent. was a very fat head-rent indeed. The present state of affairs was that the rental from the tenants had fallen from £5826 to £3869 by the operation of the Land Acts while the present rent received by Trinity College was £3072. That was to say, that at the present moment the College received a head-rent amounting to 79½ per cent. That was a ridiculous state of affairs for any receiver of head-rents to find himself in. In the old days the balance which went into the pocket of the noble Lord was £3,874, out of which he had to pay costs of collection and costs of improvements. At the present time his balance was only £797, and he believed that if nothing was done the head-rent of the College would go on increasing just as much as before. He should like to observe also that this landlord had spent as much as £10,000 on improvements. There was another case in which, before 1881, Trinity College received a head-rent of £3,700 when the gross rentals amounted to £9,150, or 40 per cent. of the rents, which was a very good percentage indeed. Now Trinity College took £5,031 out of £7,188, thus increasing its percentage to 70 per cent. This case was almost parallel with the first one he had quoted. He had another case in which Trinity College was receiving more from the middleman, than the middleman was receiving from the tenants, and the latter had to make up the balance out of his own pocket.

What happened when a sale was mooted? What price did Trinity College ask in order to redeem its head-rents? He had a quotation which showed that on April 25th last the solicitors of Trinity College, in open Court before Judge Ross, asked for twenty-five years' purchase in one of these cases. Since then His Majesty's Government, in their omnipotent wisdom, had inserted this clause in the Bill, providing £5,000 a year in order to reimburse Trinity College for possible losses they might make. What had been the result? Last week one of those middlemen wrote to the bursar of the College and asked what amount would be required for the redemption of his head-rent. The bursar replied that he was not prepared to give a figure, but that he was prepared to recommend to the College that they should ask twenty-seven-and-a-half years' purchase of these head-rents. So that as a result of receiving £5,000 a year from the the Government the demand of Trinity College had gone up by two-and-a-half years. He did not wish to comment on this action; it was a matter with which they had very little to do, and it ought to be settled between Trinity College and the Government. He did think, however, that it pressed hardly upon those middlemen, in view of the large grant that Trinity College received from public funds in order to help her to meet middlemen in a reasonable spirit, that this should be the position taken up by the leading financial adviser of the college. It was useless to try and persuade the House that the College would not follow the advice of its bursar. Might he be allowed to apply these figures to the first case he had quoted. Presuming that the noble Lord wished to go for a sale, Trinity College taking twenty-seven-and-a-half years' purchase of the head-rent would get £84,480, while the middleman, at the mean reduction in the Bill and, therefore, taking an average including the bonus, would get £104,400. That was to say, there would be a margin left to him of £19,924, out of which all the costs of sale would have to be paid (for when they redeemed the head-rent they had to pay the costs to the owner of that head-rent), and the landlord was left in the position that he would have to sell his judicial rent for just over six times its amount, so that he would sell a property bringing in £800 a year, on which he has spent £10,000 in improvements, for about £18,000, after deducting the cost of the sale. Was it human to expect that a single one of these middlemen would sell under this Bill. Yet by this one case alone 800 tenants were cut out of the benefits of the Bill.

What was the remedy which they sought? They asked the same remedy which was given by His Majesty's Government to the payers of tithe rent-charge under the Act of 1898, that was to say, that the grant rent of 1851 should be regarded as the standard rent, and reduced in accordance with the reductions given by the Land Courts during the fifteen years following the year 1881, and that they should be varied after each fifteen years in the ratio of the varying rents of the occupiers under the operation of the last Act. The tithe rent-charge was now varying in different districts in consonance with the variations in that district of the rent of the occupiers as settled by the Land Commissioners. He naturally knew it very well indeed, because he was an owner of tithe rent-charges, and the Act of 1898 took a great deal out of his pocket. He now asked that as he was treated by the Act of 1898, so Trinity College should be treated by this Bill. He asked for this in order to make sales possible. He would only raise two further points upon that. The first was that when the Government of the day in 1881 resolved to disturb rent at its source in the interests of existing occupiers they, in elementary justice, became bound to make head-rents vary in the same way. That principle, their Lordships would remember, was recognised in 1898 by the Tithe-Rent Charge Act. Secondly it must have been the obvious intention of the Government of 1851, in fixing a sliding scale of prices by which rent was to vary every ten years, that the relation then existing between the lessees' rent payable to Trinity Dollege, Dublin, and the rent receivable from the occupiers should be made permanent. He thought he had shown that this had not taken place. He therefore asked their Lordships to pass this Amendment and make it possible for the grantees as landlords to sell their holdings, and prevent the tenants, numbering in all nearly 10,000, being cut out from the advantages of this Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 37, to insert the following new sub-section: (5) 'From the first day of November next after the passing of this Act, the sum payable in respect of any sale accruing due after that date for any rent due in respect of any ecclesiastical lease or any Trinity College lease or grant in perpetuity, shall be varied from the amount at which it stood previously to such date in accordance with the average percentage of the variation of rents declared by the certificate of the Land Commission to have taken place with respect to the county in which the lands out of which such rent is payable are situate, as if such rent were a tithe rent-charge within the meaning of the Tithe Rent-Charge Act, 1900, and all the provisions of the said Act shall apply to such rent, anything in the Trinity College, Dublin, Leasing and Perpetuity Act, 1851, or in any deed or grant made in pursuance thereof to the contrary notwithstanding.

"The Land Commission may, if they think fit, order such rent to be redeemed at a price to be fixed by them on the basis of the variation so declared by them as aforesaid, as if such rent were a tithe rent-charge within the meaning of Section 18 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1857."—(*The Earl Donoughmore.*)

*LORD RATHMORE trusted that their Lordships would not accept the Amendment, for he believed that if it were carried it would do great injustice and might seriously injure Trinity College. He was sure it was unnecessary for him to press upon their Lordships what a public loss it would be if anything were now done to cripple the power of the College. Even in the other House nobody was found to question the great services Trinity College had rendered in the past, and still rendered, not only to Ireland but to the Empire. No one was found to question the honesty with which every penny of her resources was applied to the great purposes which she so well fulfilled, and no one was found to suggest that there was any excess in those resources. He was quite sure that in their Lordships' House the greatest sympathy and regard would be felt for that old institution which for so long had been the centre of real patriotism and the home of unwavering loyalty.

What was the grievance of the noble Lord, who had put his case with great force and persuasive power. It was that whereas the rent which the middleman had to pay to Trinity College had been increased under the Act of 1851, the rents which he received from his tenants had been reduced by the operation of the Land Act of 1881. But in what degree was the position of such middlemen worse than that of any other men who had charged their lands or encumbered them not expecting for a moment that the Land Act of 1881 would be introduced. It was the first time that in a Bill introduced for a different purpose a proposal for which there was no precedent, namely, that of interfering with the head-rents of superior landlords, was brought forward. There had been one attempt to deal with the position of middlemen, and it was made in the Land Act of 1887. The middleman who was discontented with his position could surrender his interest. But that was not all. The very Act of 1851, to which the noble Lord had referred, provided a remedy for the very purpose by giving power to vary the rents which the middleman paid to Trinity College if it were proved that those rents were unjust. He knew the noble Lord had not referred to it on the present occasion, but there was something at the root of this question, and that was a charge which had frequently been made in former arguments on this subject. The charge was that by some means or other Trinity College in 1851 imposed an unjust bargain upon its tenants, and that ever since they were treated in a harsh way because the Act of Parliament forced upon them a system which they were unwilling to accept, which was at the time unfair and had since become more oppressive.

What was the fact? The Act of 1851 was not introduced at the instance of Trinity College at all, but by the Government of that day; and it was produced as the result of an agitation which had been proceeding for some time on the part of the middlemen who held leases under Trinity College. There was a great deal of correspondence, and of conference between Trinity College and its lessees, and the subject was thoroughly threshed out. A private Bill was introduced into Parliament, and a petition against it was presented by the tenants of Trinity College. Every objection which the middlemen had to the Bill were carefully gone into, and the measure was modified in various ways until the tenants and middlemen found themselves perfectly satisfied with the provisions that were made. There was no foundation whatever for the suggestion that the Act of 1851, which fixed the rents of Trinity College, was regarded at the time as unjust by the middlemen. A letter was written at that time to Trinity College by the representatives of the middlemen signed, amongst others, by one Charles Clements—one who was so ably represented in this House at the present time. The letter concluded—

> "The Board may rely upon our exertions to have the several matters fully carried out. We beg again to express our thanks for the deliberate consideration which has been given by your Board to every subject on which we have felt it our duty to trouble you."

Not only were the rents fixed with the consent of the tenants but there was introduced into the Bill a clause for the purpose of varying the rents from time to time should they be considered unjust at any period. The principle upon which the rents were fixed by that Act of Parliament was on the current price of certain commodities, and after ten years either party had the right to apply to have those rents revised again on the same principle on which they had been originally fixed. Could anything have been fairer than that? The middlemen have failed to take advantage of that. It would be much better business no doubt for them to make a short cut and apply the practice of the Tithe Act of 1900.

There was not a shadow of foundation for this appeal to their Lordships. If the tenants were dissatisfied with the present condition of things, two courses were open to them. They could apply for the revision of their rents under the Clause of the Act of 1851, or else, if the case was one of hardship on the middleman and he felt that he was paying more than he could get from his sub-tenant, he could surrender his holding. But it was rather a strong thing to come and appeal to their Lordships in the middle of a debate on the Land Purchase Bill, on this old question which had been threshed out often before. What was the £5,000 a year provided for? It was to be applied in indemnifying the College against any loss of income arising from the redemption under the Land Purchase Acts of any superior interest owned by them. It was really for the purpose of meeting losses by investments, and had nothing at all to do with landlords and middlemen. It was absurd, when it had been found necessary for Parliament to pay the £5,000 a year in order to insure Trinity College from loss by new investments, that at this stage of the Bill a new system contrary to the contract that was entered into long ago should be introduced, which might cut down its income to a much greater extent. If these middlemen succeeded in their attempts they would not only obtain a reduction of rents by a process under the Tithe Charge Act, which had really nothing to do with this case at all, but they would also get a large slice of the bonus, of which Trinity College would receive not one penny.

THE EARL OF ROSSE joined in the appeal made by the noble Lord and expressed the hpoe that their Lordships would not assent to the Motion now before the House. The case of the middleman was not one of such hardship as the noble Lord, Earl Donoughmore, would lead them to think. Originally, the middleman had no certain tenure, but only a lease under which he could hold for twenty years. It was the express wish of the middlemen that the Act of 1851 should be passed, as it gave them, for the first time, perpetuity of tenancy. Trinity College made good use of her funds, and she had not too much to meet the increased demands of education. He asked their Lordships to reject the Amendment.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that, as he had an Amendment upon the Paper similar in character to that now before the House, he should like to associate himself with all that had been said by the Earl of Donoughmore in his most able speech. He should like to point out to the Committee and to the two noble Lords who had spoken last, that they seemed to have forgotten that the real crux of the problem was that, so long as no variable rent was permitted by Trinity College, it would be impossible for the middlemen to sell to a large number of tenants, and that the working of the Bill would be seriously impeded. If the middleman sold to the tenants, he would have hardly anything left to live upon, because there would be no margin. It must not be forgotten that there were other types of superior interests which had not been subsidised with £5000 a year like Trinity College. There were large estates with superior interests which would suffer seriously when middlemen and sub-tenants sold, and they would receive a very small sum on their agricultural investment. Under the Act of 1896, in a great number of cases, the middlemen found that the agricultural rents were reduced so largely that there was no margin of profit, and they were bound to surrender to the superior interests, and the superior interest came in and found that all the value of his interest had gone. Trinity College had suffered in the same way, as a great number of other superior landlords must suffer under the present Bill and the Act of 1881, but they were very well safeguarded by the £5,000 placed at their disposal. He thought they might fairly meet their middlemen in the way suggested by the Earl of Donoughmore. Variable rents had become to be very well known in Ireland now, and no doubt the great and highly honoured institution of Trinity College should be safeguarded as much as possible, but it should be remembered that they were in the same position of others who held superior interests.

*THE EARL OF BELMORE said he wished to say a few words on behalf of some of the tenants of Trinity College. About twenty-five years ago he happened to be the chairman of the Dublin University Commission, and then had an opportunity of a certaining the state of their finances. He agreed that the case of the tenants of Trinity College was a very hard one, and Lord Rathmore's statement of the case did not agree with his own information. He was informed that in the old times, before the Act of 1851, the tenants of Trinity College held in much the same way as some of them were tenants of the Bishops. They paid a heavy rent for their leases and, at the same time, a considerable fine every year for the renewal of the lease. He was also told that prior to that time the fines paid by the tenants of Trinity College were earmarked for a particular purpose in that College. For instance certain portions of the fines went to pay the salaries of the Provost and of some other great officers in the College. That was found in the College to be a very inconvenient plan, because, although they could enforce the rent, they could not enforce the fines if the tenant was prepared to risk the loss of the renewal of his lease, and therefore it was to the interests of both parties to put an end to that state of things. An addition was made to the rents of about 20 per cent. which was payable by the tenants and was subject to a variation every ten years. Unfortunately for the tenants, but fortunately for the College the prices of the day happened to be very low, compared with later on. When the tenants came to vary their rents, they always got a rise. Then came the Land Act of 1881, and since that was passed, there was a fall in prices for five years. It was then found by the Fry Commission, and he though tby the Cowper Commission, that the prices of corn and other things on which the variation depended had not materially altered in the last seventeen or eighteen years, and therefore for the tenants to come and claim revision would be useless, because they might get a further rise. He thought their case was a very hard one. He agreed, however, with his noble friend Lord Rathmore it would be very difficult for their Lordships to accept the clause as it stood, because Trinity College would have a right to be heard before anything was done. He thought the case was not on all fours with what had been quoted with regard to the tithe rent-charge. It occurred to him when he was first asked to bring up this question that if the Government would consent, something might be done in the way of bringing in an additional bonus to the tenants of Trinity College if they sold. Of course it would be quite out of place for him to move anything of the sort, but if the Government could see their way to do something like that, they might facilitate some sales. Unless something of that sort were done he did not think they would find any middleman would be able to sell his land at the present time.

LORD ASHBOURNE said that what Lord Belmore had said had a sound of reasonableness and common justice. Would it not be perfectly monstrous when this great Bill had come to this House teeming with important issues, to spring into the middle of a section a brand new system of fair-rent legislation. It would be unreasonable to proceed with the proposal without notice to Trinity College that their interests were to be gravely imperilled. Every farthing which reached the pocket of that great institution had to be applied to necessary outgoings for the great cause of education, and they had no margin to go upon. The noble Lord himself had descended from a provost of Trinity College. There was not a shadow of foundation for his case when looked at fairly and reasonably. Trinity College had considerable landed estates, and it being a big seat of learning it was quite impossible for it to work those estates, and therefore they were let out to a series of wealthy leading Irish gentlemen, some of them Peers. Those gentlemen, for their own purposes, let the estates at very considerable profit, and in more than one case there were a series of sub-lettings and ot perpetuities, and they had never heard the large amounts which the middlemen of rank and position gained by such lettings. That position existed until 1851, when the tenants joined together and asked for something like a security of tenure in order that they could improve and occupy their own holdings. Trinity College, when the Government approached them, met them in such a fair spirit as to the fixing of the prices of commodities which were to measure the rents in the future that the tenants actually signed a letter of acknowledgment thanking the Board of the College for the consideration with which they had met every one of their claims. They were given under the Act of 1851 a fixity of tenure. The rents of the middlemen have sometimes gone upwards and sometimes downwards, but at any rate until 1881 they had a chance of reaping a very substantial profit, of which they were not slow to avail themselves. The middlemen had the power to sell and to get part of the bonus but Trinity College would get none of it. Were the middlemen by an effort like this to step in almost on the last day when the Bill was under consideration and sweep away thousands a year from the rent of the College. It would be both unreasonable and unfair for the Government to countenance such a proposal.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he quite realised the force of a good deal that had been said by the noble and learned Lord, but the point still remained that sale for 10,000 tenants in Ireland was practically impossible. The noble Lord had said that the middlemen were rich men. No doubt they were in 1851, but he thought he could fairly claim that the figures which he had quoted, and which the learned Lord entirely ignored, showed an enormous decrease in their incomes from these resources and that practically there was now no margin. He did not wish to press the Amendment, but he wished that something could have been done in regard to the matter, for it was a great pity that those 10,000 tenants should be cut out of the operation of the Bill by the operation of circumstances over which they had no control. Could not something be done towards giving the middlemen a double bonus, because the bonus was about all they would get. He did not wish to put the Committee to the trouble of a division.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 38, as amended, agreed to.

House resumed; and to be again in Committee to-morrow: The Committee to have precedence of the other Notices and Orders of the Day.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

POOR LAW (DISSOLUTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND ADJUSTMENTS) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

MARINE STORE DEALERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order); a further Amendment made, and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

LONDON TRAFFIC.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether the Royal Commissioners on the Traffic of London are likely to present any Report before proceedings have to be taken for the promotion of Bills to be introduced next session.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, I have ascertained that it is not likely that the Royal Commissioners on the Traffic of London will present any Report before proceedings have been taken for the promotion of Bills to be introduced next session. I think it is extremely desirable that this fact should be known in order that it should be brought to the notice of intending promoters of new schemes, as it is extremely improbable that any new schemes would be allowed to go on until the Commissioners have reported.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: I am very much obliged to the noble Duke for his answer, which is what I anticipated. My sole object in asking the Question was to warn promoters that it was impossible for Parliament to consider any new schemes for new tubes or large railway extensions through London, until the Commissioners have reported. I do not, of course, refer to measures dealing with existing lines, alterations of capital, purchases of small portions of land or matters of that kind. I was anxious to give this notice as publicly as I could, and I am much obliged to the noble Duke for supporting me in doing so in order that the promoters may be saved the considerable trouble and large expense of introducing Bills and giving notices.

The House adjourned at half-past Twelve o'clock a.m. till to-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 6th August, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Gateshead Corporation Bill; Stroud and District Tramways Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Brighton Corporation Bill [Lords] (King's Consent signified). Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Liverpool University Bill [Lords]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.

Petition from Lanark, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Lower Wortley against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Thirty-fifth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY AND OTHERS (AGREEMENT).

Copy presented, of an Agreement, dated 1st August, 1903, between the Admiralty and the Board of Trade and the International Mercantile Marine Company and other Companies [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS (GENERAL REPORT).

Copy presented, of General Report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Seventeenth Annual Report of the Inspectors for 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Forty-second Annual Report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (England and Wales) for 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVIGABLE INLAND WATERWAYS (COMMERCIAL, No. 7, 1903).

Copy presented, of Reports from His Majesty's representatives on Navigable Inland Waterways in Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Germany, and the Netherlands [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES.

Copy ordered, "of Report on Wholesale and Retail Prices in the United Kingdom in 1902, with Comparative Statistical Tables for a series of years."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

TRADE (BRITISH COLONIES WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return ordered, "showing for 1901 the imports from foreign countries into British India, the self-governing colonies, and the following Crown colonies: Straits Settlements, Ceylon, Mauritius, Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad, distinguishing (a) imports of food and drink, raw materials, and manufactured articles; and (b) principal articles."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Landing-Place at White Port, Loughross Point, Donegal.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the fact that on the 22nd ultimo a salmon boat, manned by a crew of six men, could not land at White Port, Loughross Point, County Donegal, owing to the absence of a landing-place or pier, but was driven, with danger to the lives of the crew, by the force of the tide to Innishaynop, an island three miles from the coast; and, if so, whether the work of the completion of a boat-slip or pier at White Port, which has been suspended by the Congested Districts Board, will, having regard to the necessity of the case, be immediately resumed.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The work in progress at White Port was suspended merely to test its character. When this has been sufficiently ascertained the work will be resumed.

Cost of Museums and Galleries in London.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the total cost for the last financial year of the museums and galleries, respectively, situated in London.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The gross sums voted in Class IV. of the Civil Service Estimates, 1902–3, for these services were (exclusive of items merged in more general sub-heads and not separable)—Victoria and Albert Museum and Bethnal Green Museum, £66,994; Geological Museum, £3,558; British Museum, £128,729; Natural History Museum, £49,051; National Gallery, £18,600: National Portrait Gallery, £5,541; Wallace Collection, £9,066.

Concession for Collection of Rubber in Uganda.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in granting a concession in Uganda to an Italian firm for the collection of rubber (Africa, No. 9, 1903, page 5), precautions have been taken to prevent the industry from degenerating, as has been the case elsewhere, into a system of slavery; whether he will state the conditions (if any) for the protection of native labourers inserted in such concessions; whether the concession granted to the Italian company, and the form of such concessions to be granted in future, can be published as a Parliamentary Paper.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The text of the concession has not yet reached the Foreign Office. The concession is, of course, held subject to the Native Labour Regulations (Queen's Regulations, No. 8, of 1900, Native Labour), the provisions of which are very detailed; and to the Rubber Rules under the Forestry Ordinance, 1903. All these rules and regulations are protected by a penal clause. Copies of them are in the library. Lastly, it is laid down that, in working the concession, European supervision is to be provided.

Scottish Board of Manufactures Committee—Publication of Report.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury when the Report of the Committee, which has inquired into the constitution and management of the Scottish Board of Manufactures, is likely to be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The Report of the Committee is now complete, and will be in the hands of the Secretary for Scotland in the course of the next day or two. I cannot at present come under any obligation as to the publication of the Report, but that matter will be considered by the Secretary for Scotland when it is in his hands.

Clerks in Irish Agricultural Department—Equal Treatment.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he is aware that there are two sets of clerks in the Agricultural Department, Dublin, who are identical as regards length of service, nature of duties, and record of conduct; that one set receive £120 a year, whilst the others, after service of eight to eleven years, receive considerably less than £100 per annum; and, if so, whether he will make inquiries into this matter, with a view to have both sets of clerks placed on the same footing.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I would refer the hon. Member to my replies to the similar Questions addressed to me by the hon. and learned Member for North Louth on the 28th May, 17th June, and 7th July.†

Belfast Telegraph Department—Reinstatement of Clerk Guilty of Stabbing.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can explain under what circumstance a clerk was reinstated in the Telegraph Department, Belfast, after having pleaded guilty to stabbing a man with a dagger, on 13th July, last.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxiii., 110 and 1162. cxxiv. 1524.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) When the case came on at the assizes the Crown entered a *nolle prosequi*, and, as the sorting clerk and telegraphist bore a good character, it was not considered necessary to prevent him from resuming duty.

Overtime in Glasgow Post Office.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can now state the cause of the amount of overtime performed in the Glasgow Post Office; and why the postmaster at that office is only now preparing his schedule of revision for the indoor staff.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The causes of the overtime in the Glasgow office are growth of work and occasional pressure of work which cannot be foreseen. The revision now under consideration is designed to provide for the overtime due to growth of work, but there will still be occasions when overtime will be necessary. The postmaster forwarded his proposals in due course. There was no case for a revision last year.

Glasgow Post Office.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster General whether he is aware that there are a number of half-time learners employed at Glasgow who are capable of taking up sorting duties; and, if so, whether with a view to minimising the amount of overtime performed in the postal branch of that office, he will give instructions that these officers be put on full-time duties, and that they be paid the standard rate of wages recommended by the Tweedmouth Committee.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) A number of qualified learners are being employed as temporary sorting clerks and telegraphists with a view to reducing the amount of overtime. They are paid at the minimum of the scale for established appointments of the same kind.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state how many sorting clerks and telegraphists are at present employed in the Glasgow Post Office who are not in receipt of the standard rate of wages—viz., 18s. a week when nineteen years of age, as recommended by the Tweedmouth Committee; and whether seeing that these officials, though qualified in the telegraph school, were kept at a reduced wage owing to the Department not being able to provide for them in the instrument room at Glasgow, he will give instructions that the officers affected be now paid the full rate of wages, together with back money from the time they reached the age of nineteen, and state what were the exceptional circumstances stated in the Glasgow postmaster's reply to a petition submitted by a number of sorting clerks and telegraphists upon which certain officers were paid back money although they are not even yet qualified officers.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have at present no information on this subject, but I am making inquiry.

Scarcity of Raw Cotton in Lancashire.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can explain how it is that there is a famine this season of raw cotton in Lancashire, seeing that at the same time no scarcity exists on the Continent, where full time is being worked; and whether he can state when the Government Papers upon foreign legislation to prevent gambling in options and futures will be laid upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I have no official information which would enable me to reply to the first part of the Question. The Papers referred to in the last part of the Question will be issued as early as possible, but I cannot name a day.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that American cotton is being re-shipped from Liverpool to New York, thus decreasing the supply in Lancashire, and consequently increasing the price famine in England, and to the effect on the price of cotton of the system of future options; and, if so, whether he will cause inquiry to be made into the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The information in the possession of the Board of Trade does not indicate any recent increase in the re-export of cotton from the United Kingdom to the United States. The total amount so re-exported in the first seven months of the present year was 400,000 cwts, compared with 459,000 cwts. in the corresponding period of the previous year. During June and July the quantities were 72,000 and 70,000 cwts. respectively. The quantity of American cotton re-exported to America from Liverpool in July was about 61,000 cwts. As at present advised, I do not see any object in having an inquiry.

Merchandise Marks Act.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Trade why no action has been taken upon the unanimous recommendation of the Select Committee on Merchandise Marks of 1897 that the words "made abroad" should be substituted for the specification of the country of origin upon goods marked in accordance with Section 16 of the Act of 1887; and, having regard to the declaration by the Committee that the specific declaration of country operates as an advertisement of the merchandise and products of foreign countries, and to the loss and discouragement of British business enterprise, if he will undertake to deal with the matter next session.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) If my hon. and gallant friend is prepared to bring in a Bill to give effect to the recommendation of the Select Committee on Merchandise Marks, 1897, it will receive careful consideration from the Government. It is, however, by no means clear that that recommendation could be carried out consistently with existing treaty stipulations.

Cost of Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages in England and Wales.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire, Rhondda): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state the total cost of the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in England and Wales, and the relative proportion of such cost paid out of the rates levied for relief of the poor and from Imperial sources.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) During the year ended Lady Day, 1902, boards of guardians expended the sum of £98,343 in respect of the registration of births, deaths, and marriages. Towards this expenditure guardians received during the year from Imperial sources, through the Councils of Counties and County Boroughs, the sum of £9,254 in respect of the remuneration of registrars of births and deaths. The remainder of the expenditure would fall on the rates. These figures, of course, do not take into account the cost of the Registrar-General's Department.

Public Buildings in London—Dates of Completion.

SIR CHARLES McLAREN (Leicestershire, Bosworth): To ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he will state the nature and objects of the works going on at the Palace end of the lake in St. James's Park, and also the contract dates on which the new War Office buildings, the building in Parliament Square, and the Victoria and Albert Museum are to be completed; and whether he has any official reports showing that the contractors are making due progress with the works in each case.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The works being carried out at the Palace end of the lake in St. James's Park are the building of a retaining wall in connection with the scheme of laying out the ground in front of the Palace for the Queen Victoria Memorial, as shown on the plan now being exhibited in the Tea Room at the House of Commons. These works will be completed by the end of October. For a reply to the remainder of the Question, attention is invited to the answer circulated with the Votes of the 25th of June last, in reply to a similar inquiry by the hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division.†

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 546.

Improved Landing-Stage at Cooscroum, County Kerry.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board will carry out the necessary improvements at Cooscroum, County Kerry, in order that the fishermen may be enabled to haul up their boats with safety during the approaching autumn fishing season.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The proposal will be considered by the Board at its next meeting on the 10th September.

Extension of Boat-Slip at Glen, Co. Kerry.

MR. BOLAND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state why the extension of the boat slip at Glen, County Kerry, is not being proceeded with; whether the Congested Districts Board will construct a breakwater at the outer end; and whether, with a view to reducing the gradient on the present slip, the Board will imbed iron rails between every two of the old rails.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I am informed that work on the boat-slip has been commenced. The Board has not yet considered the representations which it recently received in respect to the other works mentioned.

Meath County Council—Suspension of Rate Collector.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state if he will request the Local Government Board to reconsider its decision to remove the suspension of the rate collector suspended by the Meath County Council.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The County Council, early this year, suspended Mr. Coonan from the office of rate collector for not complying with the Board's regulation requiring him to attend before the Secretary of the Council once every fortnight with his accounts. Mr. Coonan did not deny that he had been irregular in attending with his books, but he pleaded that owing to the size and shape of his district he had found it difficult to attend every fortnight. The Board did not consider this explanation could be accepted as satisfactory; but inasmuch as he had a good record for thirteen years, and the present was the first offence on his part reported to the Board, and as he had moreover lodged the full amount of his warrants within the prescribed time, the Board did not feel it could adopt the extreme step of depriving him of his position on the present occasion. It is the invariable practice of the Board to give a warning to every good officer of long service before dismissing him for a technical irregularity. Mr. Coonan gave an undertaking to observe the regulations strictly in future. If he should fail to comply with the undertaking hereafter more serious notice will be taken of his conduct.

Armagh Rural District Council.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the medical officer of health has on several occasions reported to the Armagh Rural District Council that a nuisance exists in their area; and whether, seeing that the District Council has not taken any action, he will instruct the Local Government Board to make inquiries in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Question has been referred to the District Council for its observations.

Disturbance at Religious Meeting at Clifden, County Galway.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his atttention has been called to an attack upon two gentlemen preaching in the market-square at Clifden, County Galway, on the 25th July last; and, if so, in view of the police being present, can he state how many arrests were made.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I have received to-day a report on the occurrence referred to. No arrests were made on the occasion. The matter is now engaging the consideration of the Government.

Water Supply for Troops at Gosport.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether he is aware that the Gosport water supply has been condemned as unfit for domestic use; and whether he will state what steps are being taken to secure a proper water supply for the use of His Majesty's troops stationed in the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The War Department as well as the Admiralty have been for some time past endeavouring to secure an improvement in the water supply in question. The urban district council have now appointed a special committee to consider the matter, and an officer of the Army Medical Department is making special investigations.

Military Works Bill Mounted Infantry Barracks.

SIR ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether barracks for the mounted infantry will be erected under the powers of the Military Works Bill; and whether it is in contemplation to enrol and train together any permanent force of mounted infantry.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Provision is made in the Military Works Bill for barracks for mounted infantry at various training centres, but it is not intended to enlist men specially for mounted infantry or form a permanent force of that description.

Volunteer Regulations—Extra Drills in lieu of Camp.

MR. ASHER (Elgin Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for War, if he will state what number of drills a Volunteer, who has not attended camp, is required to perform in order to be efficient, when the corps to which he belongs has attended camp; and does the fact that the corps, to which the Volunteer belongs, attends camp render it unnecessary for him, though not personally attending camp, to perform the extra drilll in order to be efficient.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Additional drills for non-attendance at camp are not required from individual Volunteers who do not attend camp in a year in which their unit does so attend. The number of drills required is as follow:—Artillery, Engineers (other than Submarine Miners and Electrical Engineers), and Royal Army Medical Corps—Recruits, forty-five attendances of not less than one hour each. Trained men, fifteen attendances of not less than one hour each. Infantry, Recruits, forty attendances of not less than one hour each. Trained men, ten attendances of not less than one hour each.

Volunteer Manœuvres — Interference with Traffic on Public Roads.

MR. COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that an officer of a Volunteer Cyclist Corps has claimed authority to stop traffic on a public road, and to the fact that a body of Volunteers suddenly broke cover and fired blank cartridge in front of a private carriage; and, if so, will he state whether such practices are permissible, whether notice can be given to the general public of the intention to occupy a high road for exercises involving such incidents.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) No information has reached the War Office concerning either of the incidents mentioned. The regulations for combined training, 1903, forbid firing on a public road unless it is unoccupied and no horses or carriages are near, when a single shot may be fired to mark the position.

War Office Purchases of Saddlery, etc. from Foreign Merchants.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War what amount was paid to foreign merchants or producers in the years 1900, 1901, and 1902 respectively for saddlery, including blankets and numnahs.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The value of contracts made for harness, saddlery, including blankets, numnahs, nose bags, etc., by the War Office, either with contractors outside the United

Kingdom or with contractors or agents in the United Kingdom who obtained the articles from abroad, was as follows:—1899–1900, £78,939; 1900–1, £133,118; 1901–2, £2,684; 1902–3, *Nil.*

Home Service for 16th Lancers.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary of State for War why the 19th Hussars were ordered home instead of the 16th Lancers, seeing that the 16th Lancers left England in 1890 and the 19th Hussars in 1891.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The introduction of the Cavalry scheme of reorganisation in 1897 necessitated certain adjustments of the roster, and the alteration alluded to was settled at that date.

Importation of Wood Pulp.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the value of wood pulp imported into the United Kingdom for paper makers last year was, in round numbers, £250,000 from Canada as against £2,000,000 from Norway and Sweden; and, if so, whether he proposes in his fiscal policy a duty on the £2,000,000 worth of Scandinavian wood pulp, and whether wood pulp will be treated as a manufactured or raw material.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) I am aware that the figures are roughly as stated in the Question. In answer to the latter part of the Question I have to say that I have not made any proposal with regard to wood pulp.

Importation of Paper.

SIR JOHN LENG: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has considered the extent to which the British public are indebted for their cheap newspapers and literature to the use by British printers and publishers of £2,000,000 worth of paper manufactured in European countries and the United States; and whether he proposes to raise the price of that paper by the imposition of an import duty.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain*): I do not think that the British public owe cheap literature entirely or mainly to the importation of foreign materials, but I have made no proposal to tax them.

Distribution of Dutch Gifts to the Boers.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Transvaal Government is now prepared to afford facilities to Mrs. Koopmans de Wet to send up to the Transvaal the goods still remaining of the free gifts from Holland to the Boers, which have been entrusted to her, on the understanding that she or her agents will be allowed to distribute them.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) Railway and Customs facilities were offered some months ago, and I am not aware of any obstacle to the dispatch and distribution of the goods.

Canadian Steel.

MR. BROTHERTON (Wakefield): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Dominion of Canada has extended the bounties on Canadian steel; and, if so, whether he will make any representations with a view to prohibiting Canadian iron and steel from coming into this country.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) I have no information as to the alleged action of the Dominion. If the question of extending preferential terms to our colonies should be decided in the affirmative, all the conditions of reciprocal trade will be a proper subject for inquiry and settlement.

Suggested Departmental Inquiry into the Management of the Ecclesiastical Commission.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the administrative expenses of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and to the fact that the number and salaries of the staff employed by the said Commissioners are determined by the Treasury, he will cause a Departmental inquiry to be held into the administration of the said Commission, with a view to securing the more economical management thereof.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) On reference to the annual Reports of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the last twenty years it will be found that the net income of the Commissioners in respect of their common fund, together with that derived by them from estates and funds held upon special trusts or managed by them on behalf of the Bishops, has risen from about £1,206,000 for the year ending 31st October, 1883, to £1,785,000 for the year ending last October. Notwithstanding this increase of revenue and growth of business in other directions I am informed that the amount paid by the Commissioners for salaries (apart from pensions) has fallen from £29,526 11s. 6d. in 1883 to £23,999 6s. 7d. last year and, having regard to this and to the fact that the organisation of the office was the subject of a careful investigation by the Treasury twelve years ago, no cause appears to be shown for the Departmental inquiry which the hon. Member suggests.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

South African War Medals.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War has his attention been drawn to complaints which have been made to the War Office and to officers by officers and men of the Yeomanry and Colonial forces who served in South Africa previous to July, 1901, at not receiving their medals; and, if so, seeing that the medal rolls from these units were rendered previous to 31st July, 1901, will he say when these medals will be issued? I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the King's medal, which was authorised in Army Orders for October, 1902, has been issued to Regular troops, he will explain why the Queen's medal applied for in July, 1901, has not yet been issued to men of the Yeomanry and Colonial forces?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): Individual complaints have been received and attended to when possible by issuing the medals, and the remainder will be issued as quickly as is consistent with the proper checking of the rolls.

MR. MANSFIELD: Is it the case that the Yeomanry medals have been put on one side in order that the medals for the Regulars may be issued.

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir, there is no truth whatever in that.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Farehan): It is a fact that the decorations have already been conferred on regimental pets, and the claims of human beings will be considered next.

LORD STANLEY: I do not think the hon. Member has any right to make such an insinuation. Every single case has been considered. I have had lots of letters on the subject, and I have looked into every complaint personally, and have found that in every case it has been due to the medal roll being deficient.

MR. MANSFIELD: But is it not a fact that a dog and a horse have been decorated?

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir.

Religious Intolerance among the Boers.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he can give the names of the Dutch Reformed ministers who refused to baptise the children of, or to administer the Sacrament to Boers who surrendered early in the war, and the occasions in which they were so refused the rites of their church.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): It is my hope and belief that the state of things in which the exhibition of intolerance was made has to a great extent ceased, and I do not think that any good purpose would be served by giving the names asked for.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: But since the right hon. Gentleman considered that it served a good purpose to mention the matter publicly two or three days ago, will he not give his authority?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: There is no doubt whatever about the facts. I do not, however, think it necessary to introduce personal matters.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: There is grave doubt about the fact. That is why I asked the Question.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I may repeat that there is no doubt whatever about the facts; I have satisfied myself in regard to that.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: Then give the names

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: No, I will not.

Transvaal Post Office Censorship.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether it is still the law in the Transvaal that any postmaster may intercept any letter or telegram which he suspects to contain seditious matter, and that any resident magistrate may open such letter or telegram; and, if not, whether any ordinance amending the law in this respect will be laid upon the Table.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have been in communication with Lord Milner on the subject, but have not yet received the amending ordinance which is to be passed.

Canadian Trade Statistics.

MR. TOULMIN (Bury, Lancashire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been called to the Annual Trade Returns of Canada for the twelve months just concluded, and especially to the increase in the export of manufactures; if he can state which of these exported manufactures compete with the manufactures of the home country; and whether any of them are stimulated by bounties.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have not yet received the Annual Trade Returns of Canada for the fiscal year recently concluded.

Preferential Duties.

MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the proposal to levy preferential duties would affect the products of Malta, Cyprus, Mauritius, the West Indies, the Pacific Islands, and other minor possessions of the British Crown.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Question of the hon. Gentleman is premature. Up to the present time His Majesty's Government have made no proposals.

Seistan-Nushki Railway Survey.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received any report from the medical officers attached to the Seistan-Nushki railway survey party, or from Colonel MacMahon's Afghan Boundary Commission, with reference to the appearance in their ranks of typhus fever, or to the effect that several surveyors with one or other of these expeditions have perished from thirst in the Seistan deserts; and whether he can give any particulars as to the casualties which have taken place.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I informed the hon. Member for North Manchester on the 30th July that I had received no information as to the prevalence of typhus among the workers on the Quetta-Nushki Railway.† As to the Seistan Irrigation Boundary Commission, it appears from Colonel MacMahon's reports that typhus is very prevalent in Seistan, and that there was an outbreak in his camp early in May, six cases having occurred, of which five were fatal. Steps were at once taken for segregation, and Colonel MacMahon reported on the 8th June that his camp had a clean bill of health. On the 24th June he reported the deaths of a native surveyor and three subordinates owing the failure of their water supply.

India and Thibet.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, with regard to the Commission nominated by the Indian Government to proceed into Thibetian territory for the purpose of pressing British traders' wares, he will state upon what date the Commision was appointed, and the number and quality of the military escort in attendance upon or following the Commissioners; whether he can give any explanation of the action taken by the Chinese authorities, either at Pekin or in Thibet, with reference to the objects of this Commission; and whether he will communicate to Parliament the text of the instructions issued to the Commissioners. I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for India whether any change has taken place in the frontier relations between India and Thibet; and whether he can make a statement as to Thibetan affairs.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxvi., 899.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I will, if I may, include both the Questions of the hon. Member in one answer. No change has taken place in the frontier relations between India and Thibet, which are governed by the Convention between Great Britain and China of 1890, and by the Regulations of 1893, drawn up and signed by British and Chinese Commissioners, to give effect to the provisions of the Convention. The Convention and the Regulations have been published as a Parliamentary Return (C. 7312 of 1894). As to the action taken by the Chinese authorities, I stated in reply to a Question by the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty on the 13th instant†, that a proposal was made last year by the Chinese Government for the despatch of a Chinese Commissioner to discuss on the spot certain questions relating to the frontier and to trade. These questions relate to grazing disputes on the northern frontier between Sikkim and Thibet, and to the observance of that frontier as laid down under the Convention; and also to difficulties concerning the conduct of trade between Thibet and India under the Regulations. The Chinese Imperial Resident at Lhasa, who has been corresponding on behalf of the Chinese Government with the Government of India on the subject of the negotiations, was informed by the Viceroy of India on the 3rd June last, under instructions from His Majesty's Government, that Colonel Younghusband, C.I.E., had been appointed British Commissioner, and that he would proceed, accompanied by Mr. White, Political Officer, Sikkim, as Joint Commissioner, to meet the Chinese and Thibetan representatives at Khambajong, the nearest inhabited place on the Thibetan side to that portion of the frontier between Sikkim and Thibbet at which grazing disputes had arisen. Colonel Younghusband's escort consists of 200 men of a Native Infantry Regiment. A reserve of 300 men is stationed at Tangu in Sikkim. It would be contrary to the public interest at this stage of the negotiations to make any further statement, or to lay on the Table the instructions to the British Commissioner.

Children in Punjab Gaols.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the language used by Sir Charles Rivaz, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, in his resolution on the Punjab Gaols Report, with reference to the treatment of juvenile offenders and habitual prisoners, and to the evils resulting from the association of juvenile with adult prisoners; whether he is aware that in the Punjab in 1902 there were 116 boys and twelve girls imprisoned under the age of sixteen, as well as a large number of others to whom less than six months of imprisonment was awarded; and whether the attention of the Government of India has been directed to the desirability of extending reformatories in India to prevent the contamination of juvenile criminals and to promote their reform.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I have read the passage referred to in the Question. Juvenile prisoners are kept apart from adults even when accommodated in the ordinary gaols, and if the hon. Member will refer to the paragraph he quotes from he will see that a reformatory, which has for some time been under construction, will very shortly be opened in the Punjab. The Government of India and the local Governments are, I believe, quite alive to the objections to the confinement of juvenile offenders in gaols, and the object of the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks was to inculcate the desirability of resorting more largely to the provisions of Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which enables them to be released on a bond without being sent to gaol.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxv., 402.

British Military Charges on India.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the fact that the Government of India have been invited to contribute £400,000 per annum towards the additional military charges to be incurred by the establishment of 25,000 British troops in South Africa, he will state by what method of calculation this sum has been fixed; what arrangement is proposed, in the event of any of these troops being used for military purposes outside India, for a payment to the Government of India for services so rendered; and whether he will give the House an assurance that Papers upon this subject will be laid before Parliament before any definite decision is arrived at.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: It has been suggested to the Government of India that, in view of the admitted necessity of increasing the number of British troops upon which they can count at once in case of emergency, it would be a convenient arrangement if 12,500 men, upon whose services they could then count, were kept in South Africa, where they would be far more promptly available than they would be if kept in this country. The sum of £400,000 has been taken as representing approximately half the additional annual cost to Imperial revenues involved in maintaining 12,500 men in South Africa instead of at home. So long as that number of men is kept constantly available for Indian purposes, it is proposed that the payment shall be continued; and no repayment will be expected so long as this condition is fulfilled. I am unable at present to give any assurance with regard to the presentation of Papers.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: Has the despatch from the Government of India on this subject yet been received?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: No, Sir. I do not expect to receive it for eight or ten days.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire Forest of Dean): The noble Lord in his reply used the words, "It has been suggested." Does that mean that the Secretary of State in Council made the suggestion?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: Yes. The suggestion, as I explained, I felt to be one economical to India, but I thought it only reasonable before coming to a future decision to get the opinion of the Government of India.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): And to that no reply has been received?

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: Not yet.

Indian Irrigation Commission Report.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India have come to any decision in reference to the recommendations of the Irrigation Commission Report; and, if so, whether he will state what that decision is.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: The Report of the Irrigation Commission has just been received, but the Government of India have not yet informed me of their views as to the action they would suggest to be taken on the recommendations of the Report.

M'Kinley Tariff.

MR. J. H. LEWIS: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will lay upon the Table a copy of the evidence given before a Committee of the House of Representatives at Washington in 1894 with reference to the M'Kinley Tariff, and particularly the evidence of Mr. Havemeyer, at that time President of the Sugar Trust.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E., for Lord CRANBORNE): The Foreign Office does not possess a copy of the evidence to which the hon. Gentleman refers, but it can no doubt be obtained if he wishes.

Congo Free State Administration.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have yet communicated with the other Powers on the questions that have arisen concerning the administration of the Congo Free State; and, if so, whether the terms of their despatch will be made public.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR, for Lord CRANBORNE: The legal questions involved in the proposed communication to the Powers on the subject of the administration of the Congo State and the wording of the draft required careful consideration and the draft has only just been settled. The circular will very shortly be despatched. It will be made public at the first convenient moment after it has been received by the Powers concerned.

Bahr-el-Ghazal.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the result of the negotiations for the transfer of part of the Bahr-el-Ghazal to the Congo Free State; and whether any and, if so, what steps have been taken to ascertain the views of the inhabitants as to the proposed transfer.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR, for Lord CRANBORNE: Negotiations are still proceeding and I am not yet in a position to give any information on the subject.

Alcoholic Drinks—Purity and Maturity.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he proposes to take any, and if so, what, steps with the view of securing the purity and maturity of alcoholic drinks; whether he has received any official reports showing that adulterated whisky is a cause of lunacy; and whether he will consider the advisability of setting up a standard of purity for spirits in the interest of public health.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman can at the same time answer my Question as to whether he has received any official information showing the evil done by unadulterated drink?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): That is rather too large a question to be dealt with across the floor of the House. In reply to the Question on the Paper the answer to the first two is in the negative, but of course I shall be glad to consider any evidence or representations on the subject that may be laid before me. I may refer the hon. Member to the Answers given on the same subject on the 6th ultimo.†

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): Has not the right hon. Gentleman received any official information as to the agitation in Glasgow on the subject of lunacy following on the drinking of Scotch whisky.

[No answer was returned.]

Cost of the Pacific Cable.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH (Bristol, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the total amount charged to the Exchequer up to 31st March, 1903, in respect of interest, sinking fund, and working expenses of the Pacific cable; how much of that amount is due from the colonies which undertake to share the cost of the cable; and when this latter sum will be received.

MR. RITCHIE: The audit of the Pacific Cable Board's accounts to the 31st March, 1903, has just been completed. The accounts have not yet been formally transmitted to the Treasury, but I have ascertained that they show a total net expenditure, charged to the Exchequer Grant, up to 31st March last, of £91,437 4s. 11d. This charge covers interest, and also the working expenses of the cable so far as they exceeded the traffic receipts. It includes nothing for sinking fund, as the first instalment of the annuity for repayment of the money borrowed for construction does not become payable till December next. The share due from the contributing colonies in respect of the expenditure to 31st March last is £65,374 5s. 4d., and payment will be claimed from the colonies as soon as the Board's accounts are received.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1397.

Imprisonment under the Vaccination Acts.

MR. BAYLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that on 27th July last four defaulters under the Vaccination Acts, living at Clayton, Yorkshire, were arrested and conveyed to Wakefield Prison; and, if so, whether he will call for a Report as to why distress was not first attempted for the recovery of the fines imposed on them.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I have made inquiry, and find that distress warrants *were* issued in these cases. I am informed that no sufficient goods could be found on which to levy distress, and commitments were issued in the ordinary course.

Metropolitan Police Fund.

*MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston): I wish to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state what is the average amount or balance during the year in the Bank of England of money belonging to the Metropolitan Police Fund Account for which no interest is received.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: The average balance during the year ended the 31st March, 1903, on which no interest was received, was £131,968.

Foreign Made Tram Rails.

MR. RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what proportion of the tram-rails laid in the United Kingdom during the last ten years are of British manufacture, and what proportion of Continental manufacture; and will he also give the same particulars as to the tram-rails laid in the metropolitan area in particular.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Board of Trade have no information which would enable them to answer the first portion of the hon. Member's Question. With regard to the second paragraph, I have communicated with the London County Council, and they inform me that in connection with the re-construction for electrical traction of their tramways, about 5,000 tons of rails of British manufacture, and 10,720 tons of rails of foreign manufacture have been purchased by the Council. Previously to the transfer the company used about 1,000 tons per annum of foreign rails, and none of British manufacture. They add that they have no information as to the rails used by the North Metropolitan Tramways Company—the lessee of the Council's northern tramways—nor as to what is done by other tramway companies in London.

Government Audits—Attendance of Rural Overseers.

*MR. A. K. LOYD (Berkshire, Abingdon): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether his attention has been drawn to the inconvenience caused to overseers in rural districts by requiring their attendance, as a matter of course, in addition to that of the assistant overseer, on the occasion of the audit by the Department auditor; and, if so, whether he will consider the possibility of releasing them from personal attendance unless they receive a notice from the auditor that their presence will be required on any particular occasion.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): My attention has not been drawn to any recent complaints of this kind. It it the duty of an overseer to attend the audits of his accounts, and I am advised that it is often found of much advantage that one at least of the overseers of the parish should be present. But I am willing to give consideration to the subject.

MR. A. K. LOYD: Will the right hon. Gentleman allow me to lay before him fuller information than appears to be in his possession on this matter?

MR. WALTER LONG: Yes; I shall be very pleased to receive, and carefully consider, any such further information.

St. Faith's, Norfolk, Rates.

MR. PRICE (Norfolk, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the effect of the Agricultural Rating Act on the rates levied on ratepayers other than occupiers of agricultural land in the union of St. Faith's, Norfolk; whether he is aware that, out of £10,932 raised in that union for the year ending on 25th March last, only £948 was Government grant under this Act, £2,388 being raised from agricultural land, and £7,596 from other hereditaments, about £800 more than the owners of such hereditaments would have had to pay if the Act had not been passed; and, if so, whether the Government intend to take steps to relieve the ratepayers throughout the country districts from this extra burden.

MR. WALTER LONG: My attention has been drawn to this matter. I have not yet received Returns as to the rates raised in the union during the year in question, and I am not in a position to investigate the figures given by the hon. Member. I have applied for the Returns referred to, and on receiving them I will look further into the matter. I may point out, however, that the grants under the Agricultural Rates Act in respect of the area of the union for the year ended Lady Day, 1902, amounted to over £1,500. The sum of £948 mentioned in the Question is the grant to the guardians only, whilst the amounts mentioned as raised from rates would appear to include the expenses of other local authorities also.

Secondary Schools Curriculum.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether his attention has been directed to complaints in secondary schools recognised under Division A, that the number of hours allotted to obligatory subjects are excessive, and that insufficient time is left for languages, literature, and history, and to the fact that a number of the schools in Division A adopt that division because they are able to earn larger grants under it than they would in Division B; and, if so, whether the Board of Education will reconsider the grants to secondary schools with a view to granting equal assistance to any schools doing sound educational work and ceasing the present discrimination in favour of science subjects.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The Board are aware that such complaints have been made, and are at the present time carefully considering the whole question. Perhaps I may refer the hon. Member to what I said in this House when the Education Estimates were being discussed.† The teaching of science demands a somewhat larger grant than the teaching of some other subjects owing to the expenditure of material involved.

Chairs in Public Parks.

*MR. CREMER: I wish to ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he will say (1) whether, previous to 1896, anything was paid by the person who was granted the privilege of placing chairs in the parks; (2) whether the chairs now in the parks are supplied by the same person, and, if so, (3) what is the name of the person or contractor; (4) when the present contract was entered into and when it expires; (5) what amount is now annually received by the Government from the contractor; (6) whether he will consider the advisability of requiring a larger payment by future contractors; (7) whether his attention has been called to the decrease in the number of free seats in the parks since the practice commenced of placing chairs there and charging the public for their use; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: (Derbyshire, N.): There are numerous licence-holders for chair-letting in the Royal parks, but the hon. Member probably refers to the case of Hyde Park. The joint licencees for that park are Mr. Powell and Mr. Shotton, who represented the licencees previous to 1896. The existing licence was issued for five years from April 1, 1901, and the payment received for it is £1,000 per annum; before 1896 nothing was received. When the time of the expiration of the present licence is at hand the First Commissioner proposes to reconsider the arrangements. The First Commissioner is not aware of any decrease in the number of free seats.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxv., 179.

Annunciators in Members' Rooms.

MR. PATRICK O BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works whether, with a view to the convenience of Members, he will consider the desirability of having annunciators placed in the public dining room, the tea-room and the reading-room during the recess.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: As the hon. Member was informed in answer to a Question on the 7th of April last, there is no provision for new annunciators in the Estimates of the current year.† The First Commissioner has no hopes of being able to meet the cost out of savings, and can only promise to consider the matter in the preparation of the Estimates for 1904–5.

Irish Land Commission.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of Roman Catholics, Protestants, and other denominations filling other than subordinate positions under the Irish Land Commission, and the number of each denomination promoted during the past three years.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The religions of persons in the service of the Irish Land Commission are not officially recorded.

MR. MURPHY: Surely there can be no difficulty in getting the information?

[No answer was returned.]

Donaghadee Harbour.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will inquire as to the delay in completing the harbour works at Donaghadee; and whether he will take steps to press on the necessary works before the winter months set in.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Commissioners of Public Works are using every effort to complete the works at the earliest possible date. The more important repairs will, it is expected, be completed before the winter.

Irish National Education Office—Book Department.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that certain officers formerly employed in the book department of the National Education Office (Ireland) have, on the abolition of that department, been appointed to positions of equal value in other departments, while other officers of equal merits and claims have not been equally well placed; and, if so, will he state who they are, and explain why they were so treated; and will he see that all deserving officers of the abolished book department are provided with equally good appointments?

MR. WYNDHAM: The question refers to a number of persons employed in packing books, whose services were dispensed with on the abolition of the book department. They were paid weekly wages, and were not entitled to pensions. Gratuities, however, were paid to those who had lengthened service. The Commissioners had no responsibility in the matter of the re-employment of these men. Nevertheless they made every effort to obtain appointments for them, and these efforts have been successful except in the case of one man.

Kilmainham Prison.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that for want of a proper waiting-room visitors of both sexes to prisoners in Kilmainham Prison are obliged to wait their turn to visit outside the prison gate and under the public gaze; and, if so, whether, seeing that Kilmainham is the prison for remand cases for Dublin and a district embracing several counties, that visitors are numerous and principally females, that females taking food to untried prisoners are obliged to expose the meals for official inspection on the floor of an entrance porch, and under the view of the public passers-by, he will provide a covered waiting-room with seating accommodation ?

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxx., 1252.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Visitors are sometimes exposed to the public view, but the inspection of food conveyed to untried prisoners is carried out inside the prison. It is proposed to alter the committal areas at an early date, and this will have the effect of removing the inconvenience complained of. Remand prisoners would then be sent to Mountjoy Prison, where the accommodation for visitors is more suitable.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Is it not the fact that the meals taken in by females are inspected in view of the public ? Will the right hon. Gentleman see that a proper waiting-room is provided ?

Mr. WYNDHAM : I understand that the alterations will remove that inconvenience.

Police and the Bishopswood Assembly.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why on Sunday, 19th July, and following Sunday, police numbering about 150 were drafted from the towns of Clonmel, Cahir, and surrounding stations into the townland of Bishopswood (near Dundrum, County Tipperary), a district free from crime; is he aware that sports had been held there; if so, will he say on whose lands they were carried out; is he aware that there was a public-house in the locality to which the parties at these public sports had free access ; and will he further say who is to bear the expense of these constabulary visits ?

Mr. WYNDHAM: The number of police assembled on each occasion was about fifty. The force was present for the preservation of the peace; the circumstances are well known locally. No public sports were held in the locality. The cost of the concentration will be borne by the Constabulary Vote.

Kilballyowen Property.

Mr. LUNDON (Limerick, E.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland can he state whether the management of the property of The O'Grady, of Kilballyowen, is in the hands of the Judge of the Land Court; and, if so, who is the Receiver ; if not in the Land Judge's Court, who is the agent ; and can he say whether the tenants in the village of Herbertstown will receive facilities for purchasing their holdings, as the farmer tenants on the estate have got during the past few years.

Mr. WYNDHAM: No proceedings have ever been instituted for the sale of this property in the Land Judge's Court. The agent is Mr. Arthur White, of Limerick. I have no information showing whether the provisions of the Land Bill or Land Acts are applicable to the tenants specially referred to.

Darley Estate, Killarney.

Mr. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the aid of the police was given recently for rent seizures on the Darley estate, near Killarney, he will, having regard to the opportunities for sales now offered to the owners of this and similar estates, refuse the assistance of the police force at rent seizures in future.

Mr. WYNDHAM : No protection has recently been given by the police for the purpose mentioned. In respect to the second part of the Question it is the bounden duty of the police to afford protection in the execution of decrees issued by a competent Court of law.

Mr. MURPHY: Will the right. hon. Gentleman refuse police protection in cases where the distress warrants are issued by the land agents themselves ?

[No answer was returned.]

Congestion in Derryaughta.

Mr. KILBRIDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the congested condition of the townland of Derryaughta, county Kildare, and to the fact that twenty-eight families there, comprising 161 individuals, have a valuation under £4, that the houses are small and the majority unfit for human habitation, and to the advertisement of 450 acres of meadowing to be sold by auction in the neighbourhood; and whether in view of the fact that there are untenanted grazing tracts between Athy and Kildare, steps will be taken to enlarge the holdings where necessary in Derryaughta and Ballybracken electoral division.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have no information on the first part of the Question; the Land Bill now before Parliament provides for the enlargement of holdings in such cases.

MR. KILBRIDE: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire as to the first part of the Question?

MR. WYNDHAM: I will draw the attention of the Estates Commissioners to the case when they are appointed.

Meeting in Greencastle National School.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a meeting held in the Greencastle Presbyterian National Schools, on Wednesday evening, 29th July; and whether in view of the rules of the National Board of Education, the action of the manager in allowing the meeting to be held in the schools has been brought under the notice of the National Board of Education; and, if so, what action they propose to take.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Commissioners have requested their Inspector to make a full Report in respect to the meeting held in the Whitehouse National School on the date mentioned. When the report has been received the matter will be considered by the Comimssioners.

Hawkers in Phœnix Park, Dublin.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for the College Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that persons are in the habit of assembling round a certain spot in the Phœnix Park, Dublin, opposite the Viceregal Lodge, offering for sale to tourists photographs and various other articles purporting to be souvenirs of the occurrence of the 6th of May, 1882, and that the Council of the County of Dublin have passed a resolution calling on the Board of Works to put a stop to these proceedings; and, if so, whether he will urge the Board of Works to take action in this matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: It is a fact that hawkers and other persons of this class are in the habit of congregating on the spot indicated, and also at other points in the Park. I will look into the matter and see whether it is practicable to take action.

Irish Poor Law Medical Officers.

*MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Viceregal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the question of the amalgamation of Irish Poor Law unions and other questions have power to inquire into the grievances of Poor Law medical officers in the matter of salaries, holidays, and *locum tenens*; and, if so, can he explain why the Commission refused evidence tendered by medical men on this point; and whether, in view of the difficulty of getting qualified medical officers for certain unions where vacancies now exist, because of the insufficient salaries offered, he proposes to direct the Commission to invite evidence on these questions which affect medical officers.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Commission will consider the general question of the amalgamation of unions and other reforms in Irish Poor Law Administration, which are indicated in the published warrant constituting the Commission. The deliberations of the Commission have been limited in their scope with a view to the completion of the necessary inquiries in the shortest possible time, and to the avoidance of matter, such as the grievances of the medical officers, which are regarded as highly contentious. These grievances can only be remedied at the ratepayer's expense, and a more suitable opportunity for considering them will arise when the Commission referred to has made its Report.

Irish Petty Sessions Clerk.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has issued any instructions regarding the retirement of petty session clerks and the age limit; and, if so, are clerks included who are competent to discharge their duties to the satisfaction of the justices, and are the justices to be consulted when such retirements are contemplated as to the competency and efficiency of their clerks; and, if clerks who are efficient, and whose services are over twenty years, are retired compulsorily, will he state on what scale their pensions are calculated, and whether any additional expense will be thrown on the county.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Lord Lieutenant has made a rule prescribing that petty sessions clerks appointed subsequently to the 20th April last shall be retired on reaching the age of seventy years. Clerks appointed before that date, on reaching the age of seventy, will be continued in office from year to year so long as they prove efficient. The pensions of clerks will, as heretofore, be calculated on the ordinary Civil Service scale. No additional expense will be involved by the rule in question.

Ballaghaline Fishery Pier.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the resolution of the Clare County Council to the effect that the county contribution towards the erection of Ballaghaline Fishery Pier should be increased by £50 to secure his offer of £100, in addition to the sum of £200 already voted by the Department of Agriculture for this work; and, if so, whether he will make good the promise he made in reference to this matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: The cost of the erection of a boat slip at this place is estimated at £400. The Department of Agriculture offered in February last to contribute one-half the cost. I have no recollection of a promise to contribute any sum in addition.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I hope I have a copy of the letter. Still it is the fact that the promise was made.

Arms and Ammunition Licences in North Tipperary.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state on what basis of calculation and expediency resident magistrates in Ireland issue licences for the sale of arms and ammunition in the various towns and districts; whether he is aware that as regards North Tipperary, Nenagh, the capital town, with a population of 4,722, and a district population of 24,932, is restricted to two licences for the purpose, while Borrisokane, with the minimum population of 666, is allowed to have three vendors; that Roscrea, with a population less than half that of Nenagh, is provided with three or more; that Thurles, less than Nenagh, with three or four; and Tipperary Town, but a little larger population than Nenagh, has six licences for the sale of arms and ammunition; and, if so, whether he can see his way to consider the case of Mr. James Harkness, of Nenagh, the son of a former military armourer, with a view to his being granted a licence to carry on this business, to which he has been brought up, seeing that against his character no charge has been made.

MR. WYNDHAM: The issue of licences for the sale of arms and ammunition is vested by statute in the discretion of the resident magistrate of the district, and is not regulated solely by considerations such as are suggested in the Question. Every application is considered on its merits, and in determining whether a licence shall be granted, the licensing officer is influenced by the character and fitness of the applicant as well as by considerations affecting the requirements of the district. In the present case the county inspector, and also the local police, reported adversely on Mr. James Harkness, and were of opinion that he was not a fit and proper person to be entrusted with a vendor's licence. The resident magistrate thereupon declined to give him a licence.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN: What were the reasons given in the adverse Report?

MR. WYNDHAM: One was that Mr. Harkness was very lax in making Returns.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN: I shall be compelled to raise a debate on this Question.

Irish National Library.

*MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to the complaint of the trustees of the National Library of Ireland as to the unsatisfactory lighting of the reading room; and whether, in view of the fact that this room is largely resorted to in the evening, as shown by the figures given in the same and previous Reports, steps will be taken during the current year to substitute for the old arc lights now in use some newer form of artificial lighting.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): I have seen the Reports referred to. I am informed that the lighting of the reading room of the National Library is no doubt capable of improvement either by the substitution for the old arc lights now in use of newer arc lights or of incandescent lights, but the question is complicated by the limits of power of the boilers and engines from which the present light is obtained. The question will be looked into before the Estimates for next year are submitted to Parliament.

The Fiscal Inquiry.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state if the Cabinet inquiry into the fiscal system will include inquiry into the effects of the present fiscal system upon Ireland, considered as a separate entity; and whether he can state if any, and, if so, what steps will be taken to ascertain the exports and imports between Ireland and Great Britain.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course the inquiry means an inquiry into the fiscal system of the United Kingdom, including Ireland.

MR. MACVEAGH: Will it apply to Ireland as a separate fiscal entity?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can only say it includes all parts of the United Kingdom.

Licensing Legislation.

SIR CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now inform the House as to the intentions of the Government with reference to the question of brewers' licences.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON: Perhaps at the same time the First Lord of the Treasury will answer my Question on the same subject.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes; the two Questions are almost identical. The events which gave rise to a widespread feeling of insecurity on the part of English licence-holders, and which have caused many of them to be deprived of their property through no fault of their own, took place subsequently to the meeting of Parliament and the settlement of the legislative programme for the year. It was therefore impossible to deal with the subject in the course of the present session; but the Government propose to take it up at the earliest possible moment after the re-assembling of Parliament.

SIR W. HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford): May I ask whether the proposed Bill will provide a safeguard against or remedy for any confiscation of licensed property consequential to proceedings taken at the annual brewster sessions in February next

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): May I ask whether any proposal that may be brought forward would exclude the claims of brewers for any imaginary loan that may be on a house?

SIR WILFRID LAWSON: May I ask whether the Bill which the right hon. Gentleman has foreshadowed is to be confined entirely to the matter he has mentioned, or is it to be a general licensing Bill?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it would be inexpedient, and the House will probably take the same view, to attempt to foreshadow the details of the Bill, whose general object I think I have very explicitly stated to the House. Perhaps the hon. Member for Woolwich will accept that as an answer to his Question. With regard to the Question of my right hon. friend, he will bear in mind that no licences can be withheld by the brewster sessions without an appeal to quarter sessions; and I should hope that in the interval that must elapse between those two events the House will be able to express its views on the subject.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he will consider the propriety of raising the price of licences to a level corresponding to the monopoly value?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it would be very wise for me to say what I shall, or shall not consider in dealing with this difficult problem; but no doubt any suggestion the hon. Member may make will receive due consideration.

The Fiscal Inquiry.

MR. MANSFIELD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury has the Government prepared a list of manufactured articles imported to this country under conditions that enable them to be sold under cost price; and, if so, will the list be published.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the Board of Trade will be in a position at no distant date to publish a good many Returns and tables which they are preparing. I do not think much would be gained by attempting to anticipate the contents of these tables.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): Do the Government propose to present to the House before it rises any of the results of their inquiry which have already been arrived at?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should doubt whether any of these tables will be ready. A block of them will be published together, and I do not think anything would be gained, even from the point of view of the right hon. Gentleman, by attempting to hurry some of them on so as to have them ready before the House rises.

MR. BRYCE: Will anything be published during the recess or shall we have to wait till the House re-assembles?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There will be publications long before the House meets again—indeed, I hope at no distant date after the House rises.

Sale of Butter Bill.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that the Sale of Butter Bill was demanded by agriculturists and the provision trade of the United Kingdom as being in the interests of the public and also of commercial morality; and whether he is prepared to give an assurance that the Government intend early next session to introduce and pass through Parliament a Bill on similar lines to that which has been withdrawn.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am aware that there is much interest taken in this Bill by a large section of the agricultural community, although I believe there is a section among the agricultural community which opposes it. I shall very favourably consider the possibility of passing it into law next session; but I hardly like to give more pledges than I have already given with regard to legislation for next year, lest we should find ourselves involved in a premature discussion of the King's Speech.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what Bills he proposes to take this evening after Supply is concluded. Would it not be convenient and more in accord with the spirit of our rules to take Reports of Supply instead of other business if Supply itself is concluded before twelve o'clock? I assume the right hon. Gentleman will not take the Sugar Convention Bill. I would also like to know whether there is any question of going on with the Port of London Bill, and what Bills would be taken to-morrow after the Committee stage of the Motor-car Bill, so that hon. Members may know whether there is any possibility of going week-ending, a phrase which we owe, I believe, to the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I regard with horror the neologism which is imputed to me. As to the best method of spending the time up to twelve o'clock, seeing that there is a certain amount of business we must get through, I do not think it would be convenient now to introduce the innovation suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, as it would throw an additional strain on the time and health of Members. I am afraid I shall be obliged to ask the House to proceed with the Third Reading of the Sugar Convention Bill to-night, and after that I propose to go on with Bills which are considered of a non-controversial character. The Port of London Bill will not be taken this week.

MR. BRYCE: When will the consideration of the Cunard agreement be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot fix a day. Not this week.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman state what course it is proposed to take with regard to the Port of London Bill? If it is not intended to take it this session will it be carried over to next session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can only say that it is impossible for me to make any further statement on the subject to-day than that it will be impossible to take the Bill this week.

NEW BILLS.

RETURNING OFFICERS' EXPENSES BILL.

"To provide for the payment of Returning Officers' Expenses out of the rates," presented by Mr. Herbert Samuel; supported by Mr. Bell, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Charles Douglas, Sir William Holland, Mr. Jacoby, Mr. Lloyd-George, Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. J. W. Wilson, and Mr. J. H. Whitley; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. (Bill 314.)

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BILL.

"For promoting Agricultural Education and nature study in public elementary schools," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings; supported by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Rothschild, Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore, Mr. Flower, Mr. Spear, Mr. Morrell, Colonel Webb, and Sir Fortescue Flannery; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. (Bill 315.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Ordered, That on this day, notwith-Danding anything in Standing Order 15, Business other than Business of Supply may be taken before Midnight, and Business in Committee or Proceedings on Report of Supply may be taken after midnight.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

SUPPLY [22ND ALLOTTED DAY].

(Considered in Committee.)

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903–4.

CLASS II,

1. £116,499, to complete the sum for stepartment of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Ireland.

*MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.) said he wished to direct attention to the condition of the National Library of Ireland. The growth of the Library during the last quarter of the century had been great. In 1878, the attendance numbered only 27,000; but in a few years afterwards, when the Library was transferred to the present building, the attendance increased to 50,000, and now numbered about 150,000. He had no detailed knowledge as to the increase in the number of volumes; but it would probably be found to be at least in proportion to the increase in the number of readers. The July bequest alone had added some 20,000 volumes, besides an immense mass of pamphlets, prints, and MSS. What had been done by the Irish Government and the Treasury to meet the growing demands of this institution? It was perfectly true that from year to year a little had been done. For instance, the Treasury had given a Vote of £200—in answer to the repeated requests of the Trustees—for the purpose of cataloguing. That amount had now been paid for four years, and he hoped it would continue as long as it was required, as the work of cataloguing was by no means completed. The work fell into arrear because of the permanent under-staffing of the Library. The gratitude which the trustees showed for small favours was almost pathetic. They referred in their last Report to twenty additional electric lamps, and similar small improvements such as no member of the Committee would hesitate for a moment in ordering any day for his private library, should they chance to be required.

The grievances complained of fell under three heads. Firstly, the salaries of the officers of the Library were not on a proper footing; secondly, the staff was entirely insufficient; and thirdly, the new wing, which was so long projected, had never been built. As regarded the staff, he might mention that two very valuable pamphlets—one a first edition of Fitzgerald's Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám, and the other Shelley's "Address to the Irish People"—were discovered and brought to the librarian by an attendant who was in receipt of only fifteen shillings per week or thereabouts. That showed that the duties of the attendants were very responsible indeed, and that they ought to be remunerated accordingly. Then, as to under-staffing, he would compare the staffs of the British Museum and the South Kensington Art Library with the staff at the National Library. In 1900 the attendances at the National Library were 148,000. The staff consisted of one librarian, two assistants, and twelve library attendants. The attendances at the British Museum were 188,000, or only 40,000 more; but the staff consisted of twenty-eight officers and fifty library attendants. The attendances at the South Kensington Art Library were only 23,000; and there the staff consisted of one keeper and five assistants, as well as a number of attendants. Then as to the lighting of the Library, he found, when he read there a great deal some years ago, that the lighting was extremely bad, and he hoped it would be improved. The new wing was very badly wanted; at present there was no place in which books could be unpacked. He had noticed great piles of wooden boxes blocking up one side of the entrance hall, and he had only recently discovered that they contained volumes sent by an American scientific society, which could not even be unpacked simply because there was no room. Further, the Library required a newspaper department, a map department, a patents-consultation department, a manuscript room, and a cataloguing room. The trustees had over and over again urged the necessity of completing the building, and he earnestly hoped it might be possible to make the necessary provision in the Estimates for that purpose next year. He also hoped that there would be a real change of spirit on the part of the Irish Government and the Treasury in dealing with the Library. He thought they ought to meet the demands of the Trustees in a very different spirit to that which they had shown in the past; and he would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that it might be well to consider whether the Estimate for the Library should be taken from its present position as a sub-head of the Department of Agriculture and put in an independent position of its own However that might be, he would urge upon the Treasury the necessity of dealing in a very different spirit with the growing demands of the Library, even when all the specific departments referred to had been remedied. It ought to be recognised that the Library had done extraordinary good work in Dublin. It was one of the few institutions which were thoroughly popular, and many people who were debarred from the benefits of University education found their best chance in the reading-rooms of obtaining some of that culture which Cardinal Newman had declared to be the aim and purpose of University education.

*MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.) said he had great pleasure in seconding the appeal made by the hon. Member for West Donegal. The right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary, as far back as 6th April, had promised that the whole matter would be considered on the next year's Estimates but the hon. Member for West Donegal had, nevertheless, done a great public service by advertising what had been done by this institution. In Dublin the National Library filled the same position as the British Museum in this country, but it had not a right to a copy of all the books published, and consequently it was only enabled to go on with the assistance of the Treasury. There was no reason now why the Treasury should not build the east wing of the Library. It appeared in the original plans, and was only dropped in 1884 on the ground of economy. The staff, though inadequate, had done its work extremely well, and had always worked to the utmost in its power, but it was ridiculous that a national instituiton of this kind should be crippled for want of a few additional attendants. The inadequacy of the accommodation was shown by the fact that when some years ago an offer was made by the American Patent Office to supply copies of all specifications for patents, that offer had to be declined. The east wing was absolutely necessary for the storage of newspapers, Ordnance Survey maps and patent specifications. In Ireland there was no Patent Office, and the only place in which to follow up patents was the National Library, and there was now absolutely no room to store the specifications of new patents, American as well as English. If Irish inventors were to be given a chance, some extension must be made in order to store all those new patent specifications.

It had been pointed out that the National Library was almost a University institution. One of the great movements in Ireland at the present time was the culture of the Irish language, and he might mention, as an example of what was being done by voluntary effort, that classes in Irish philology were conducted by Professor Strachan of Manchester during the past month in Dublin. He was glad to bear tribute to the excellence of Mr. Lyster, the librarian. He was one of the best officials he knew in Ireland, and was desirous, he was quite certain, of having a complete collection of the works of Irish philologists, such as Zimmer, Pedersen and other Continental scholars, but he had neither the means nor the room at his disposal. If Irish scholarship was to keep ahead in this intellectual movement into which so many of the young men and women of Ireland were throwing themselves with so much energy, it was necessary that the National Library, if it was to continue its great work, should be complete in this matter. He hoped the Committee would receive a specific assurance that there would be a fair and full settlement with regard to the points put by his hon. friend the Member for West Donegal.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) said it was perfectly true that the Library was annually visited by a larger number of students, and was becoming the centre of intellectual life of the whole of Ireland. Such an institution, embracing so large a circle of intellectual life, would, he was sure, be regarded by his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a friendly eye. Something had been done, as the hon. Member had admitted. The Member for West Donegal raised, in the first place, the specific question of salaries of keepers, servants, and staff generally. With regard to that a departmental inquiry had been appointed with the consent of the Treasury, and the Committee had now finished its inquiries. When their report was received, it would be carefully considered by the Treasury with a view to whatever was possible being done. More than that he could not at present say. The question of the salaries of the staff would be considered in the light of that report. There was undoubtedly a lack of space and overcrowding, but he hoped it would be partly relieved by the new buildings which would, he trusted, be erected this year. Attention had been directed to the dangerous proximity to the museum of workshops in which a considerable quantity of timber was stored, and steps, with a view to the removal of those workshops, would be taken in connection with the scheme for the new College of Science. From these remarks hon. Members would see that the Government had not been neglectful of interests of this kind in Ireland. A large sum of money was to be devoted to the building of the new College of Science, which, when completed, would add to the group of notable buildings of which the National Library formed a part. He agreed with all that had been said as to the useful parts a National Library could play, and when these new buildings were erected Dublin would have a sort of informal university of arts and literature, and he knew of no country which was likely to take greater advantage of such facilities than Ireland. Everybody rejoiced at the many awakening movements of an intellectual character in Ireland, and he agreed that those movements should, as far as might be desirable, be concentrated around the National Library and the institutions in the neighbourhood. Whether the National Library should be taken out of this Vote and placed under a separate heading was a matter for consideration, but he doubted whether any advantage would accrue from such a change. That agriculture was not incompatible with literature was shown by the fact that one of Sir H. Plunkett's assistants was not only eminent in that field, but held in high esteem as a poet. He could say nothing further until he received the report to which he had alluded, but he would be very glad if it was found possible to do something next year to add to the undoubted usefulness of the National Library.

*Mr. HUGH LAW asked whether the expenditure referred to contemplated a scheme anything like that of the completion of the east wing.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I should think not.

*Mr. HUGH LAW asked what particular purpose it was intended to serve.

Mr. WYNDHAM said he could not add anything further, but he anticipated that the overcrowding would be partially removed.

Mr. Wyndham.

*Mr. HUGH LAW said the suggestion that this particular sub-head should be removed from the Vote for the Board of Agriculture was not the essence of his remarks. His point was that there might be an advantage in making the Library autonomous, so that it could deal directly with the Board of Works, the Treasury, or other Government Departments.

*Mr. DELANY (Queen's Co., Ossory) urged that the Department should not only see to the training of hands in different directions, but also endeavour to promote industries for the employment of those hands when trained. The Department had now been at work for four years, but emigration was still increasing. Hands were trained, but there was no market at home for their labour, and consequently they were going to foreign countries in increasing volume. He desired to enter a strong protest against members of the Agricultural Department delivering anti-Home Rule speeches when travelling about the country in their official capacity. Such proceedings offended the susceptibilities of a large portion of the population, who believed that the Agricultural Department could be thoroughly efficient only when controlled by a domestic Parliament. It was really a scandal that members of that body should make such speeches. Another point was that Irishmen were practically boycotted in connection with positions under the Department. To secure appointment it was necessary for a man to be of any nationality except Irish. That was a state of things which ought to be at once remedied, as it was a stigma upon the national character. With regard to tobacco growing, the Department had done very well. He hoped the investigations and experiments would be carried further, and that whatever reasonable expense they involved would be cheerfully met by the Treasury. The last question he desired to raise was one of serious importance to the agricultural industry—viz., the question of railway and canal freights. An agreement or understanding—he might almost say a conspiracy—had been arrived at between the railway and canal companies to raise the carriage rates. Formerly the canal rates were 25 per cent. below those of the railway, but they were now equalised, and the railway companies paid the canal companies a bonus to cover any loss they might sustain through the increased rates. This state of things ought not to be allowed in a country whose only industry—agriculture—was labouring under such great difficulties, and he hoped the matter would be strictly inquired into.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.) said he desired to call attention to the inequality in regard to railway rates in Ireland. The town of Killarney was on the Great Southern and Western Railway, but goods could be procured cheaper in the town of Tralee, although that place was twenty miles further from Dublin than Killarney. He agreed with what his hon. friend had said with regard to the appointment of Scotsmen and Englishmen to teach the Irish people dairy work and butter-making. He had come across some of those inspectors, and it was amusing to listen to them theorising upon the best methods to be adopted for the promotion of agriculture. When the Government did appoint a person of Irish nationality they generally displayed favouritism. In regard to one appointment, the Kerry County Council suggested an examination, and the County Council were desirous of being associated with the Department in the conduct of that examination. The Department, however, objected to this. The examination was held, and two candidates were found capable of fulfilling the requirements of the position. One of these candidates was favoured by the Department, and consequently the officials did everything they could to discredit the other candidate. At the examination the candidate who was not favoured by the Department passed a brilliant and better examination than the other one, and was far more fitted for the position than the candidate whom the Department favoured. Nevertheless, when the result was certified to the Kerry County Council it was asserted that the two candidates were equal. In the end the County Council appointed the best candidate, with the result that all her lectures had been most useful. Such instances could be multiplied time after time, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would try and stamp out the spirit of sectarianism which had been displayed in connection with this question. He noticed in the Estimates items of £1,340 and £1,000 for enumerators and collectors of agricultural statistics. He wished to know who received that money. Was it paid to the police? If so, they were not very good authorities on agricultural questions, and the money would have been better spent amongst the officials of the local authorities, who were in a far better position to supply the required information. There was also in the list an allowance made for the collection of fishery statistics. Was that money paid to police pensioners or to land agents' clerks? Who received that money? He did not think that public money should be used in this way. He noticed in the Estimates that magnificent salaries were paid to the higher officials, but when they came to deal with the unfortunate people who had to do technical and difficult work, such as shorthand writers and typists, he found that twenty-three of them were asked to live in Dublin on a salary scarcely over £1 per week. If those persons were expected to present a decent appearance and to perform their work skilfully the least the Government could do was to give them an annual increment and a decent salary. He thought those were matters which deserved the attention of the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

*MR. BOLAND called attention to the threatened destruction of the bee-keeping industry in Ireland in consequence of the prevalence of the disease known as foul brood. The Agricultural Department had put before it nearly two years ago a scheme of legislation on this subject, but they had done nothing whatever in the matter. He understood that they were in communication with the English Agricultural Department upon this question, but he should like to know if some steps could not be taken before the autumn, either in the form of legislation or in some other way by which this disease might be stamped out.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said in reply to the Member for South Kerry that the Department had no power to destroy the bees complained of without the consent of the owners. Unless that consent was obtained they could not do anything in the matter, for they had no compulsory powers, and all they could do was to make some arrangements to destroy the bees and compensate the owners. At the present time they were in communication with the English Agricultural Department to see if some common principle of action could not be taken with a view to passing legislation to strengthen the hands of these Departments in dealing with this question. With regard to the objection that the education given had not been such as was desired by the requirements of the locality, the hon. Member knew perfectly well that the Agricultural Department acted in this matter in entire concurrence and with the assistance of the local Committee of the County Council.

MR. DELANY: Yes, and very often the Department override their decisions.

MR. ATKINSON said it was impossible for the Department to start a scheme against the wishes of the bodies who supplied the funds. They must consult the County Council, and they could prevent any scheme being carried out of which they disapprove. With regard to official appointments, it had been asserted that Irishmen were almost boycotted, and that, practically, "no Irish need apply." In that view the hon. Member was entirely mistaken, because there was the greatest desire on the part of the Department to employ Irishmen wherever it was possible, but their first duty was to appoint persons whom they thought were the most competent. It should not be overlooked that the efficiency of technical education had advanced much further in Scotland and England than in Ireland. It was only because the Department could not find men in Ireland as fit to teach in respect of qualifications as they could find in the sister countries that they had been compelled to employ natives of Scotland and England, while they were only too anxious to appoint Irishmen if they had been able to find persons qualified. He hoped that that state of things would rapidly change, and that by means of the technical education which was now being given Irishmen would be found fit and trained for those different posts. Irishmen would undoubtedly get the preference over those of any other country.

The hon. Member had complimented the Department on having made an effort to do something in another matter, namely, to test the question whether tobacco could be grown in Ireland of a character which would be really profitable and marketable, and able to take a stand side by side with tobacco imported from foreign countries. Everybody could see that unless they could grow such a commodity as would demand a sale in the market, there was no use wasting money on a hopeless effort of that kind. Experiments had been made from time to time, and they were being made now, and he hoped that very soon they would be able to say whether, in point of fact, this was a real practical purpose that could be usefully pursued. If it was not, then it should be abandoned. If it was, it should be encouraged and pursued in every way so as to permit of the growth of the tobacco. The hon. Member also referred to the question of railway rates. That was a question to which allusion was frequently made in debates on Irish affairs. It was most desirable, of course, that the railway companies should, by charging only reasonable rates, give facilities for the transport of agricultural produce. Still, it must be remembered, on the other side, that they must not carry that thing too far, so as to prevent capital from getting its legitimate recompense. If they really lowered rates and cut down the profits of railways so low that capital would not be employed, there would be no extension of the railway system in Ireland.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): Was Section 17 ever given effect to?

MR. ATKINSON said he was coming to that. The course the Department took was this. Wherever specific complaints were made, the Department invariably put themselves in communication with the company against whom the complaints were made. They endeavoured, by negotiation, to induce the company to make some alteration in their fares and rates to meet the complaint, even where they had no compulsory power to bring them before the Railway Commissioners with the view of having a decision as to the legality or illegality of the rates in force in Ireland. They had succeeded in a number of instances in inducing the railway companies to make changes in their mode of doing business in order to meet the wishes of the people who complained. In a number of cases the companies had not yielded to the remonstrances. The Great Southern and Western Company were brought before the Railway and Canal Commissioners.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): And they brought over English counsel to do it.

MR. ATKINSON: They succeeded at all events.

MR. T. M. HEALY: The local traders succeeded.

MR. ATKINSON: The local traders succeeded, but the case was brought forward by the Department.

MR. T. M. HEALY: The local traders succeeded on their own arguments and on their own merits, without any thanks to the Board.

MR. ATKINSON said that was not his information. The function of the Commissioners was not to enable the public to obtain modifications or alterations in the general rates of any company. They could not go to a railway company and say "You are charging too much over your whole system for agricultural produce. You are charging too much for this kind of produce, or too much for the transit of cattle." The Commissioners had no power to insist upon a general modification of the whole of the rates of any railway company. He did not know whether it was thought by some that it might be desirable to give the Commissioners such powers. After all, railway companies had statutory authority to charge the rates which they did charge. It was only when they imposed some new restriction which interfered with the action of some other railway company that the Railway Commissioners had power to interfere.

The hon. Member for East Kerry had referred to the methods of examining candidates for appointments under the County Council. He understood it was the desire of the hon. Member that a representative of the County Council should either have witnessed the examination or assisted on the occasion of the examination of the particular applicant by the officer. He did not know whether the hon. Member desired that the County Council representative should take part in the putting of questions to the applicant.

MR. MURPHY: It was to see that the officer conducted the examination fairly.

MR. ATKINSON said it would be impossible to carry out any system of examination under such circumstances. Just imagine a candidate coming before an officer who was sent down to examine him; a question having been asked the applicant gave a reply, and immediately the County Council representative interposed with the question: "Is that a proper answer?"

MR. MURPHY: The County Council only asked to be allowed to have a representative present at the examination of candidates for an appointment in their own employment.

MR. ATKINSON said the examiner had no power to appoint. He was simply sent to see whether a particular applicant had the qualifications necessary to fit him for a particular post. He could not assent to the suggestion that it would be proper to have him watched by a member of the County Council for the purpose of criticising the answers of the applicant, or superseding the officer in some way in the examination. He could not see what other function the County Council representative could possibly discharge. The Department ought not to send any officer in whom they had not confidence to examine any candidate, but having appointed him, relying on his competence to discharge the duty, they should not have him watched or interfered with by the members of a local body, many of whom were quite incapable of conducting the examination themselves. So far as he could see such a proceeding might lead to unseemly altercations between the examining officer and the members of the County Council as to whether the answers of the applicant were correct or not; and whether he ought to receive full, half, or no marks. The hon. Member had said that in the opinion of the County Council the candidate elected was not more efficient than the candidate rejected.

MR. MURPHY: I said that the candidates ranked as being equal, and that the County Council elected the candidate whom they considered most capable.

MR. ATKINSON did not think that County Councils should be allowed to sit in judgment as to the mode in which a particular examiner should conduct an examination. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Have they not to pay half the fee?] He understood that they had, but he should like to have fuller and more detailed information regarding the case than he had at present. A question had also been asked in reference to police enumerators. He believed that up to the present time it had been the practice to employ police as enumerators, and as far as he knew it was still competent to do so. It was much cheaper to employ a police constable as an enumerator than to engage a special officer. He believed that constables were employed, though not wholly so, as collectors of information in regard to fisheries. Then as to the complaints that annual increments of salary were not given at the lower end of the scale. In all the Departments an annual increment of salary was given to the permanent staff, because it gave encouragement to the men to work satisfactorily. But it was quite obvious that that rule could not apply to men who were only occasionally employed, and of whom there was a superabundance. What was wanted in that case was to give a sum adequate to effective service.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said that those interested in tobacco culture in Ireland had had a satisfactory interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had promised to address himself on that matter to the Department of Agriculture in Ireland. He hoped that the Attorney-General would take care that by no oversight the Department would refrain in any way from meeting the inquiries of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that his action would depend on what he heard from that Department. He wanted the right hon. Gentleman to say that the Department would act with due regard to the interests of Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM said that as President of the Agricultural Department, he could say that that Department was fully alive to the importance of this matter, and that due attention would be paid to the representations of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the hon. Member.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he wanted to give a case which happened in his own constituency within the last few months. A head constable was retired on pension after thirty-two years' honourable service; and he applied for an appointment under the Agricultural Department. He had the misfortune to be a Catholic, and a policeman of inferior rank and with much inferior qualifications, who happened to be a Protestant, received that appointment. He was aware that the head of that Department was a Catholic, but he was inclined to think that when a Catholic was appointed to high office he was apt to say that he was as good as a Protestant. He was afraid that the same mildew which had overcome the other Departments had crept over the Agricultural Department.

MR. ATKINSON said that the man was appointed because he had been previously engaged in the same kind of work in the North of Ireland. The Department had never made any inquiry as to whether that man was a Catholic or a Protestant.

*MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.) said he begged to repudiate the charge that had been brought against Mr. Gill, the head of the Agricultural Department, who was a Tipperary man and a townsman of his (Mr. O'Brien), who discharged the important duties of his Department with credit to himself and the Agricultural Board, and was in no way open to the slanderous charge levelled against him by the hon. and learned Member for Louth. It was totally unworthy of the hon. and learned Gentleman to make such a charge.

Vote agreed to.

£37,690, to complete the sum for Local Government Board, Ireland.

MR. J. P. FARRELL said he wished to bring under the notice of the Chief Secretary the extraordinary condition which had arisen at Granard Union in connection with the expulsion of the nuns from that institution. He had given notice that he would move the reduction of this Vote by £100, because he considered that the Local Government Board of Ireland were responsible, both by their activity and their inactivity, for the state of things which had arisen in Granard. It was only since local government had been conceded to Ireland that the Local Government Board had woke up to the fact of the expense of working the poor-law system in that country. For fifty years the Local Government Board of Ireland had allowed a system of pauper nursing to exist, until things transpired which were a scandal to humanity. He did not complain of the action of the Local Government Board in suspending or abolishing the system of pauper nursing; but it was right to say that every cent which was spent on nursing came out of the pockets of the poor £4 occupiers in the towns and villages of Ireland and to the relief of the landlords. When they got the landlords out of the way, the Government insisted that the local guardians should incur enormous expenditure on a totally new system of nursing. That system ought to have been introduced fifty years ago, but why should the nuns be turned out to make way for a ring of nurses trained in Dublin hospitals? Every trained nurse meant an expense of £100 a year. He did not object to the system; what he objected to was the tax it imposed on the ratepayers. When the new nursing order was issued, there were in the Granard Workhouse two nuns and one wardsmaid in possession under the existing system. Immediately the order was issued, the guardians were asked to appoint trained nurses. In some respects the Irish people were very conservative; and there was an old saying in his part of the country that "what was good enough for the people long ago was good enough for the people now." At any rate, the guardians could not see their way to add £400 or £500 a year to the taxpayers' burden. The moment the new order came into force, the medical officer of the Granard Workhouse took it into his head to be extra officious in giving effect to it. He began to find fault with the nuns; and once friction arose in such an institution it was hard to stop it. The Irish were a fighting people, and he was not sorry for it. For four years, from 1897 to 1901, the nuns put up with a state of things which was nothing short of a continual insult on the part of a gentleman who was anxious to give effect to the new nursing order. Then the position of affairs became absolutely intolerable. To meet the wishes of the Local Government Board the guardians agreed to appoint two additional wardsmaids; that met with the sanction of the Local Government Board down to 1900, when it was suddenly discovered that wardsmaids were not trained nurses, although they required to have three years' practical training. In 1900, the position reached such a stage that it was impossible to carry on the work of the institution. He wished to pay a tribute of respect and admiration to Dr. Coey Biggar—he had never met him—for the manner in which he patched up a peace to which all concerned agreed in 1900. The doctor of the institution was requisitioning a trained nurse from Dublin every other week. She received £1 11s. 6d. a week, and put up at the best hotel in the town. The two nuns who had been carrying on the work in the institution were receiving a salary of £30 a year each, without rations or allowances; and they discharged all the duties which a trained nurse might be expected to discharge. In order to patch up a peace Dr. Biggar was sent down; and the guardians still refusing to appoint trained nurses, it was agreed that a third nun should be appointed without salary, but that an additional £10 a year was to be given to the other two nuns. He wished to know why the Local Government Board did not adhere to the arrangement made by Dr. Biggar? Why was that *via media* not upheld? If the Local Governnmet Board put down its foot firmly the necessity for the inquiry which was subsequently held would never have arisen, and the district would not now be in a condition of religious and civil warfare. He knew Longford well for twenty-five years, and during that period no question had agitated the public mind as the question he was now discussing. By adopting a policy of masterly inactivity, the Local Government Board allowed the matter to slide. The right hon. Gentleman might possibly be briefed to state that it was all the fault of the nuns; but did the right hon. Gentleman think that if he himself were subject to complaints by any superior authority day after day, it would conduce to a feeling of harmony, unity, or good fellowship? The right hon. Gentleman must now know that there was no question on which the Irish people felt more deeply than any insult to the principles of their faith, or to the ministers of their faith. Sister Mary Rose stated in evidence that Dr. Kenny, the medical officer, stated that the vestments worn by the priests were not used for the purposes of religion, but in order to make much of their own personality. According to the witness Dr. Kenny also said that theology smiled at crime, and that he was glad he knew nothing about it. That was a specimen of the conduct of that medical officer towards these ladies. How could conduct such as that, continued month after month, be calculated to promote good fellowship and good feeling in the institution? He thought Dr. Kenny had displayed a lamentable lack of all the fine feelings of an Irishman, and that his subsequent conduct in relying on the Local Government Board standing up for the strict letter of the law in all these things displayed a want of tact and good sense of which he ought to be ashamed. It was also a deplorable mistake on the part of the Local Government Board to send down Dr. Smith to hold the second inquiry if peace was to be restored, because from first to last Dr. Smith proved himself to be nothing but a partisan. Over and over again he overruled and snuffed out the legal representatives of the guardians and these persecuted nuns. The man who should have been sent to hold that inquiry was the peacemaker who was sent down in the first instance. If Dr. Biggar had been sent down to conduct that inquiry there would have been peace in the Granard Union to-day. He did not intend to move a reduction of the Vote; he would content himself with simply stating the facts of the case, which he hoped would receive the kindly and sympathetic attention of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. WYNDHAM said the matter which had been brought before the Committee was a regrettable one from every point of view. The hon. Member had perhaps given a clue to the origin of the difficulty in his statement that a higher standard of nursing was required in the workhouses, but he gathered that the hon. Member, while he realised that the raising of the standard entailed a certain burden on the ratepayers, was not himself an opponent of, at any rate, all the changes which had been made.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Only as regards the time at which they were made.

MR. WYNDHAM said the fact that the changes were suddenly made just when the landlords had been to a certain extent relieved had probably led the ratepayers and their representatives to adopt a more hostile attitude than they otherwise would have done. That was probably the *fons et origo* of the matter. The question could not be judged entirely by considering the courses pursued by Dr. Kenny, the nuns, and the Local Government Board respectively. The conditions under which the nuns and Dr. Kenny had to carry out their duties should be considered. If those conditions could have been ameliorated it would have been well had the necessary changes been made. There would probably not have been this friction if the nuns had had a trained assistant all the time. Dr. Kenny had stated in his evidence that he brought his complaints, not against the nuns, but against the system; he felt that some of the necessaries for proper nursing were not provided, that a trained nurse ought to have been appointed at an earlier date, and that he was constantly expressing his opinion that there ought to be changes. This was not a charge against the nuns; it was a legitimate expression of opinion on the part of Dr. Kenny that certain changes ought to be made. He was bound to say, however, that, while he did not in the least attack Dr. Kenny, he thought he was unfortunate on many occasions in his method of making these communications, and the general manner in which he discussed them with the nuns. The hon. Member had said that he would like to see some amicable arrangement come to. If Dr. Kenny expressed his regret for any offence he had wittingly or unwittingly given these ladies, surely the matter might be allowed to settle, and the nuns to return to the workhouse. That seemed to be the only way of arriving at an amicable settlement of the difficulty. If such an expression of regret were given, they might very well hope that the representatives of the other side would accept it, and that matters would henceforth be conducted in a more satisfactory manner. Coming to the merits of the case, he did not think the guardians had placed at the service of these ladies all the accessories necessary to enable them to carry out their work in a perfectly satisfactory manner. The Granard Union was not in a wholly satisfactory state. It would be a result greatly to be deplored if this debate gave occasion to people who were only too ready to criticise the nuns, to say that they were incompetent in the workhouses and hospitals of Ireland, and that their ministrations were not useful or acceptable to the people. That was not the case at all.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Dr. Kenny did not say that.

MR. WYNDHAM said that, in his opinion, which was formed after close study of the general feeling in Ireland, the nuns were doing great services at considerable personal self-sacrifice, their ministrations were acceptable to the people, and it would be a great loss if, for any reason, their services were withdrawn. He should add, however, that there were some parts of hospital work which the nuns did not care to perform, and which they ought not to be asked to do; it was, therefore, essential, if the poor were to be properly attended, that these ladies should have the assistance of a trained nurse where it could be given, and efforts ought to be made to give it. That brought him to the question of the ratepayers. He had always on this and other questions expressed his view that the rates pressed very heavily in many parts of Ireland, and that it might be right to put up with things in that country which people would not put up with in the great industrial centres of England. But that point must not be pushed too far. He gathered from the hon. Member and from other sources that the guardians of the Granard Union, quite apart from this discussion, were alive to that fact, and were ready to raise the standard of nursing. If the guardians were ready to make an advance in that direction, and if Dr. Kenny was prepared to express regret for any offence he might have given to these ladies, why should not the ladies go back to the Granard Union and all parties endeavour to carry out their duties, thus putting an end to the present lamentable state of friction, the gravity of which he did not in the least minimise?

MR. T. M. HEALY said that having been professionally engaged in the Granard Union case he felt himself precluded from saying anything further than that he hoped the germs of a settlement might be found in the speech just delivered by the Chief Secretary. On the general question he entirely supported the view of the hon. Member for South Longford. It was most unfortunate that the requisition made by the Local Government Board upon the guardians should have synchronised with the moment when the landlords were being relieved of rates. It was all very fine to say that it was the duty of the Local Government Board to look after the poor. He fully agreed that the honest poor should be looked after to the fullest extent which the pockets of the ratepayers would allow. But there was nothing more maddening to a poor ratepayer on an £8 or £10 valuation, who was not able to afford a doctor to his own wife in her confinement, let alone a skilled nurse, than that when a tramp with an illegitimate offspring came into the union a requisition should be made for the services of a hospital nurse at 30s. a week. It was a monstrous violation of every principle of equity. All his sympathies were with these peasants. He thanked God there was not a prejudice they had which he did not possess. Here were a lot of poor farmers, working hard from week-end to week-end, suddenly called upon to pay these enormous rates just at a moment when the landlords were being relieved, and all because of the fads of a number of gentlemen on the Local Government Board. What did Ireland do for 2,000 years? What did the people do before the Poor Law was established? Was the country any the better since the establishment of this appalling system? There was not a new fad taken up by the doctors but there were people at the Local Government Board to enforce it. If a new drug at £10 an ounce was discovered, the ratepayers were at once called upon to pay for it. Every day they read in the papers of some new cure or some new disease. These things were never read of in the Bible, or in Shakespeare, or in the history of Greece or Rome. How did all these ancient peoples get on? They lived as good lives, and were just as healthy as the people of to-day, but they had no Local Government Board to look after them or their poor. He strongly protested against these medical fads being carried out at the ratepayers' expense; it should be done at the expense of the faddists themselves. It was perfectly true that the prices of these nurses were put up by the medical ring in Dublin at the very time the landlords were being relieved of their rates. The medical ring were antagonistic to the Local Government Act, and hated the local guardians in just the same way as the Irish judges, when the Land Act was passed, hated the idea of anything being done for the people and against the landlords. The members of this medical ring—who were always knighted or "baronetted" when such things were going, though why, he did not know, as they charged just as heavy fees—simply because the guardians were for the first time poor men and represented the ratepayers, adopted the attitude that it was a monstrous thing that they should have any consideration. A more tender-hearted people to the poor did not exist anywhere in the world. The poor themselves were hospitable and generous and kindly to a fault, and the notion that the guardians would do anything unreasonable was absurd. They must cut their coat according to the cloth, and it was absurd to expect them to provide the same entertainment and the same equipment as they found in Guy's Hospital. That was what lay at the root of this question. There ought to be some more representative people on the Local Government Board. There was a doctor on that Board to look after the interests of the doctors, and there were some good men upon that body. He did not wish to make any needless attack upon the *personnel* of the Board, but there was no institution which could not be improved by a little new blood, and if their institutions were to be developed even upon conservative lines, the County Councils should have some right of electing two or three men to sit upon a Board of this kind. Some method should be found to bring this Board more into touch with the requirements of the people. The £60,000 or £70,000 voted in this way was money practically wasted, because if those inspectors were not there at all they would get on just as well in Ireland. Those officials went about the country like loafers, and what happiness or benefit had the people got in consequence of their inspections? The only people who had got any benefit from their services were the hotel-keepers and the cab drivers. The expenditure of this money did not make the people either more prosperous or loyal. The whole system was wrong, and ought to be abolished, for it was absolutely no use.

He would give an instance of the way in which the Board did its work. In the town of Dundalk the Grand Jury were allowed to sell a plot of land near the gaol for the erection of a national bank, and there was no objection to it whatever. Last year he put a question to the Chief Secretary as to whether a temperance organisation would be allowed to have a little strip of land for the purpose of building a temperance hall. One would think that it was a meritorious object to turn a gaol into a temperance hall, and the Chief Secretary stated that the Government—the Imperial Government of Great Britain and Ireland—had no objection to the County Council selling a bit of these gaol premises to this temperance association. The County Council were appealed to, and they made an order that they would grant the sale of this little strip of land which was wanted for the building of a temperance hall. They took the price fixed by the Grand Jury exactly as was done in the case of a national bank; in fact they put on a little extra, and the price asked was £300. They sent this recommendation up to the Local Government Board. with its army of officials, for their sanction. What did they say? They replied that the price should be £700, and, of course, these poor people, with a little institution maintained by the pennies and shillings of the artisans in the locality, were wholly unable to pay that sum, and they built their premises elsewhere. He wanted to know why a Board of gentlemen in Dublin were considered to be better judges of the value of land in Dundalk than the County Council. No corruption had been suggested. If there had not been a standard set up in regard to the value of this land by the plot sold to the National Bank by the Grand Jury, he could have understood the action of the Local Government Board. Where was the justice of any such decision, and upon what grounds were those gentlemen in Dublin better judges than the County Council who were interested in getting the best bargain they could for the ratepayers? Now the matter was past praying for, because another site had been obtained, and the County Council of Louth were poorer by £300, offence had been given to his constituents by the Local Government Board, and another absurdity had been committed for them to complain of. He did not understand the principles upon which this body conducted its operations. To make the people happy or satisfied, or do something to please them, was the last thing that seemed to enter into their minds.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.) contended that the services of nuns in the workhouses were most useful, for they were very economical. He quite agreed with the Chief Secretary that nuns would not do altogether in the workhouses, because the rules did not permit them to do all the work. Some of them were trained in nursing, but not all of them, and it was necessary to have a professional nurse. To keep the nuns in most workhouses was most useful. He thought the Local Government Board were going a little too fast in enforcing certain rules upon different workhouses, and they did not pay sufficient attention to the resolutions of the guardians. It was very often much better to allow the guardians to be a little bit wrong than for the Local Government Board to suddenly enforce stringent rules. There was one case in which an officer neglected to pay some poor people their relief for two or three weeks, and he was reprimanded and refused his pension. He hoped the Attorney-General would look into that case. It was true that he neglected some of his work, but after his long and faithful service he thought this officer deserved some consideration. The Local Government Board had now introduced a system of accounts solely drawn up for one purpose, namely, to facilitate the audit. He agreed that they wanted a good system of audit. but they also wanted to know where they were, and whether they were spending too much or too little at the time. The County Councils and District Councils were not allowed to publish any accounts, and there was a special clause providing that they would have to pay out of their own pockets if they established any system different to the audit system. He defied any County Councillor or the Chairman of any Board to make anything of those accounts as to whether the County Council was spending too much or too little money, or to find out from them whether they were going to the good or to the bad. It was a totally different system to what they had before, and it was one which absolutely hid from the whole of the electors whether too much money had been spent in the county, whether it had been spent properly, or whether there was a proper balance in hand. They allowed the County Council to publish no system of accounts. The members of a Board going to an election naturally liked to have the accounts as perfect as possible. He thought that was a very laudable idea. The auditor could check the accounts and see that a proper statement was made out. He did not think that outside of the County Council there was a single person in the county who knew whether the accounts were going well or badly. It might be said in reply that the accounts were kept on precisely the same system as those of joint-stock companies. They knew that many joint-stock companies were most anxious to hide the state of their accounts from the shareholders. He believed that the reason for adopting this system was to save the time of the auditors. The whole question of economical administration depended upon the way the accounts were kept, and he hoped the Attorney-General would avail himself of this opportunity of putting the accounts on a proper system.

Mr. ATKINSON agreed with the hon. Member as to the desirability of publishing an abstract of the accounts so that the ratepayers might be able to ascertain whether their business was being conducted by Boards of Guardians and County Councils prudently. The public should be able to see whether proper and legal payments were made, and whether their business was being managed in an economical way or not. It was desirable to publish some form of account, not necessarily very elaborate, which should be within the reach of every ratepayer.

Mr. DELANY said he wished to support the position taken up by his hon. friend the Member for Longford in regard to what he would call the calamity that had befallen the poor in the Granard Union. He regarded the position of the ratepayers in this matter as only a secondary consideration. He had had a long and varied experience of Poor Law administration in Ireland. He had been fifteen years connected with the Union in his own district, and he could bear testimony to the useful services rendered by the members of the religious sisterhood in the way of nursing. He could well appreciate the feeling in the Granard Union when those ladies were driven out by the action of some officials. No doubt the Chief Secretary had given a rather sympathetic reply, but sympathy would not meet the situation. He ought to put his foot down and take whatever steps he considered necessary in order to reinstate those ladies. The sisters were not there to earn money. They were giving their lives to this work, and the poor people accepted their ministrations in a way they could not accept the ministrations of other nurses.

In regard to the increase of expense he pointed out that for fifty years the old defunct grand juries and *ex officio* guardians had control of all those Boards in Ireland, and during that time there was no red tape and no commands sent down that this or that should be done to increase expense; but the moment these Boards came into the hands of the elected representatives of the people every attempt was made that possibly could be made to bring on increased expense and thereby discredit the local Boards. He called the attention of the Committee to the action of the Medical Association in regard to the appointment of dispensary doctors. Formerly the doctors who obtained those appointments were perfectly satisfied, and under the old *régime* they were breaking their necks to get the appointments. Now, however, an organisation was interfering in a way which would be put down by Dublin Castle if such things were done by any organisation representing the people. The Medical Association intimidated young doctors from coming forward to take these positions. In the Tullamore Union, where he was a large ratepayer, a young doctor was appointed at a salary and emoluments which previously were considered satisfactory. No sooner did he take up the position than the Medical Association passed a resolution disapproving of his acceptance of it at the salary fixed by the Union. They expressed the opinion that the salary should be a certain amount. The gentlemen forming the Medical Association were old practitioners in good positions, and he would like to know why they attempted to intimidate young practitioners from accepting such appointments. The result in the case referred to was that the doctor resigned.

SIR JAMES HASLETT (Belfast, N.) called attention to a change which had taken place in the Poor Law administration with respect to criminal lunatics. Formerly the law was that when a criminal became insane he was chargeable to the district in which he was at the time. But latterly if a man who was a criminal became insane, he was sent back to the place where he was born. The result was that the district which had the advantage of that man's labour while he was sane escaped the cost of his maintenance if he became insane. He did not think it was fair that such cases should be treated in this way, and he wished to know from the Attorney-General on what principle that was being done.

MR. MURPHY said he wished to associate himself with his hon. friends who had complained of the action taken with respect to the Sisters of Mercy or Charity who had been excluded from Irish hospitals. He hoped that the Chief Secretary would take steps to ensure the reinstating of these sisters in the Granard Hospital, where their services were very much valued. What he wanted to point out was that the system of accounts under which the local bodies had to work was devised by an auditor of the Local Government Board. It was an extraordinarily complicated system, and he knew, from experience in his own County Council, that it had caused considerable expense. Their own clerk had suggested to the Local Government Board auditor certain alterations which would have saved a large amount of expense, but there was great difficulty in getting the Local Government Board auditor to agree to these alterations. The last Report which he found in the library of the auditors was only brought down to March, 1902; and he complained that the Government Department were so far backward in furnishing the information which hon. Members really wanted. The delay was entirely owing to the auditors. In his own County Council their business had been well regulated from every possible point of view. They had been making payments in connection with certain roads, and the auditors had passed those payments until the last audit. To the surprise of everybody the last auditor made a surcharge on seven or eight members of the County Council, on the ground that the payments had been made for roads which were not main roads. The money was paid by the County Council for the maintenance of roads which they considered were for the public interest, and in the discharge of what they believed to be a public duty; but the new auditor came along and disallowed these payments He himself had been surcharged to the amount of £20, and other members of the County Council had been surcharged more heavily. They had simply signed the pay-sheets, without any idea that they were incurring any personal responsibility. He had no intention of paying the money, and he represented to the Attorney-General that this was not a fair way of dealing with local bodies. If the view of the local bodies came into conflict with that of the auditor of the Local Government Board why should that of the latter be always accepted by the Local Government Board, when the local body had fuller information than could possibly be had by the inspector? They had adopted, in his County of Kerry, a scheme of direct employment of labour, after a minute inquiry and on the recommendation of the county surveyor, who was a very capable official. That scheme was organised to give employment to a number of unfortunate men who were out of work, and it was considered reasonable, but it had been over-ridden by the representative of the Local Government Board. That was unreasonable, and the right hon. Gentleman ought to make a representation to the Local Government Board that such a policy was neither wise nor prudent. The question of labourers' houses had been engaging the attention of the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary. In the Union in which he lived, Killarney, a good deal had been done in housing the agricultural labourers. They had built 151 houses, and 148 had been occupied, but three houses had been allowed to remain vacant, and were now going into ruin, because of some technical objection by the Local Government Board inspector. These small technical objections ought not to be placed in the way of the local bodies. He wanted a Commission to be appointed to inquire into the whole system of the working of the workhouse administration in Ireland. He had had practical experience of living in a Workhouse for business purposes, and one of the saddest things that came under his observation was that ne'er-do-weel men and women went into the workhouse, where they found a comfortable home, while honest, self-respecting artisans, when misfortune overtook them, did not go there, but suffered in silence. When one examined the cost of the workhouse system, it was found that most of the money was spent on salaries of officials. He thought a little more should be spent in making the lives of the aged and sick poor more comfortable. He hoped that, after the expression of opinion given by the Irish Members, the Attorney-General would devise some remedy for the evils of which complaint had been made.

Mr. ATKINSON said in regard to the question whether the treatment of the aged poor in workhouses would come within the purview of the Royal Commission which had been appointed, it would, of course, do so. The hon. Member need not think that he was not in heartfelt sympathy with much that had been said with regard to Poor Law reform. He, personally, thought that the Poor Law system in Ireland was utterly extravagant, and any wholesome reform would be in the direction of making more comfortable provision for the aged sick and infirm, and less comfortable places than the poorhouses actually were for the tramp. The hon. Member also complained of a certain surcharge, but, after all, they must have one of two systems. They must either leave the local bodies to manage their own affairs altogether—a system which would lead to absolute chaos and extravagance—or they must have them supervised by some central authority, and if they were so supervised that body must have the power to surcharge. He would point out that there was an appeal by the person surcharged to the Courts of law. If they wanted to merely appeal to general equitable considerations the Local Government Board, who were not tied or guided by strict rules of law, always disallowed a surcharge if they thought there was a real *bonâ fide* desire on the part of the body or members to carry out their duties properly and legally and no real harm had been done in the case. The hon. Member also complained about certain labourers' cottages which were not occupied in consequence of some technical formality, but the hon. Gentleman must remember that the hands of the Local Government Board were tied in this matter. The law required certain things to be done, and if they were not done the Local Government Board could not do anything.

Mr. MURPHY said these houses were built, and the Local Government Board would not allow the guardians to let them.

Mr. ATKINSON said there must be some peculiar feature in the case. If the guardians had built the cottages without authority, then the Local Government Board had no power to sanction their letting them. With regard to criminal lunatics, he did not know to what particular case his hon. friend the Member for North Belfast referred. Perhaps he had in his mind the circular issued by the Executive Government on 25th May.

Sir JAMES HASLETT assented.

Mr ATKINSON said the lunatics referred to in that circular were not criminal lunatics at all, but lunatic soldiers and sailors, who had to be dealt with under certain Acts. Criminal lunatics were sent to criminal lunatic asylums in Ireland, irrespective of the place of their birth. But under the Army Acts, 1881 and 1884, provision was made for lunatic soldiers and sailors, who had in their lunacy been guilty of crime, and who had either been found unable to plead, or had been proved to be mad when they committed the act. Those cases did not come under the Act dealing with criminal lunatics.

Colonel NOLAN said, although the hon. and learned Gentleman might be right in his law, the hon. Member for North Belfast was certainly right in his facts in this case. With regard to the question of surcharge, he complained that persons surcharged who elected to appeal to the Local Government Board were precluded from afterwards going to the courts of law to seek redress. He thought a person surcharged should have a right to go first to arbitration and then, if necessary, to the courts of law.

MR. J. P. FARRELL raised the question of the disqualification, under the Irish Local Government Act, of persons serving on County Councils, District Councils, and other local bodies, who had been sentenced to hard labour, and hoped the Chief Secretary would take the matter into consideration with a view to the removal of this disqualification.

MR. ATKINSON said he had discussed the legal aspect of this question with his right hon. friend. At present there was a statutory disqualification, and the Executive Government had no power whatever to restore the qualification either by the exercise of the prerogative of mercy or in any other way. He had not discussed the propriety of bringing in any legislation to alter the law in that respect. The hon. and learned Member then proceeded to state the methods in which a person disqualified could be proceeded against in the event of his continuing to sit after disqualification, which he said entailed very heavy penalties and legal costs, and he pointed out that any of those proceedings might be taken by any body interested, and not only by the Executive authority. The only possible way of altering the law would be to pass fresh legislation. It was impossible to carry on any system of local government or any form of representative election, if a man were permitted simply to defy the law and to do what seemed good to himself. He could only hope that these difficulties would not occur again; but whether a Bill could be introduced next session to alter the law in Ireland on this point he was not able to say. He was not in a position to give any undertaking that the Government would introduce legislation on the subject.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he had listened with great interest to the right hon. Gentleman, because he was considerably interested in the case of two gentlemen in Clare who had been disqualified. The hon. and learned Gentleman was perfectly accurate in what he had stated to the Committee. All this was done in accordance with the terms of an Act of Parliament, and it was not in the power of the Executive Government to interfere. He thought one of the reasons the hon. Member for Longford had brought this matter forward was that he might impress upon the hon. and learned Gentleman the necessity of introducing an Act of Parliament, if not to repeal the whole of the Crimes Act in Ireland to repeal that portion of it which had given rise to all this trouble about disqualification. A case of this kind could not arise in England or Scotland. If a man broke the law and was disqualified in either England or Scotland he could not complain. But the law under which these men were sentenced was a law peculiar to Ireland; it was coercive legislation passed in 1887 for Ireland alone, and therefore it was impossible to compare Ireland with England and Scotland in this matter. It was no doubt a small question, but it gave rise to a large amount of irritation and unpleasantness all over the country. There had been only fourteen men disqualified in the whole of Ireland as the result of prosecutions under the Crimes Act, and it certainly did seem a pity, when that Act had been taken off almost the whole of Ireland, that this effect of it should be left to disturb certain districts. No doubt legislation would have to be introduced if they wished to reverse this portion of the Act, but the hon. and learned Gentleman knew perfectly well that, if the Government did not take action in these cases, no one else would. Could not the difficulty, therefore, be met by the Government doing nothing at all? They had read in the papers and in the speeches of exalted personges a great deal about the dawning of a new era for Ireland. Was it worth while to allow a small matter of this kind to create turmoil and irritation all over the country? He strongly urged that, pending the introduction of legislation, the Government should play a wise part by taking no action. If that were done nobody else would take action and the proceedings would have no result. The attempt to belittle these gentlemen by the imposition of hard labour had signally failed. So far from being regarded as criminals, they were looked upon as having been very harshly treated, and the fact that the hard labour had in many cases been remitted by the County Court Judges had convinced the people that its imposition had been an unnecessary hardship. For the present the reign of coercion was over, and the country was in a peaceful condition. How long that condition would continue depended entirely upon the manner in which professions of sympathy with Ireland were carried out. Was it worth while upsetting the peace of County Clare and County Longford by punishing these men ? If the matter was left until next session, and the Government then took no action, he hoped the hon. Member for Longford would himself introduce a short Bill repealing the power to deprive men of the right to serve their fellow-citizens by the imposition of hard labour. These people had committed no crime against the ordinary law; they had simply, by political or agrarian action, brought themselves within the provisions of the Coercion Act.

Mr. ATKINSON said he had already stated that he was not in a position to give any undertaking. He might, however, remind the hon. Member of the old maxim that no man need cry out until he was hit.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: If you hit me I will sing out.

Mr. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent) said it was now admitted that all they did at the time of the passing of the Crimes Act was wrong, although they thought at the time that that Act was necessary for the peace of Ireland. Now that the golden age was beginning to dawn, and the Irish had got their Land Bill and everything else, all these other matters should be forgotten. He hoped nothing would occur to mar the beautiful pictures which had been conjured up to their imagination. They all hoped for the best in Ireland, and if any bitterness on the matter of the Crimes Act existed, he trusted that nothing would be done by the Government to prevent that bitterness passing away.

Sir JAMES HASLETT understood the hon. Member for Stoke to desire the withdrawal of the Crimes Act. He hoped he would not desire also the withdrawal of the money for which he did not vote.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Oh! let bygones be bygones.

Vote agreed to.

3. £10,314, to complete the sum for Chief Secretary for Ireland—Offices.

*Mr. P. J. O'BRIEN drew attention to the refusal of the authorities to grant the application of Mr. James Harkness, of Nenagh, for a licence to sell arms and ammunition. He contended that the sole reason for the refusal was that the local District Inspector had a grudge against the applicant. He, Mr. O'Brien, might say that he had no personal interest in this matter. Mr. Harkness, though a constituent, was no political supporter of his, being a Protestant and a Uunionist, but of Liberal tendencies, which he was glad to say were shown by the majority of his co-religionists in Nenagh. The man was not only a good tradesman, but a respectable citizen. On the first occasion the application was set aside for inquiry, and the letter containing the final reply of the resident magistrate was addressed simply to "James Harkness," without either "Mr." or "Esq.," and the letter commenced not with "Sir," but with "Harkness," marking, in his opinion, the animus against him. Surely even so high an official as a resident magistrate might address a respectable tradesman a little more courteously. The reason given for refusing the application was that there were already two persons in the town holding licences. The population of Nenagh was about 5,000. In a little place eight miles off, with a population of 666, there were three persons licensed to sell arms and ammunition, while in Tipperary, which was about the same size as Nenagh, there were no fewer than six such persons. But in answer to a Question across the floor of the House, a totally different reason had been given, it being then stated that Mr. Harkness was not a fit and proper person to hold a licence. No reasons were given for that statement, and he, having known Mr Harkness from boyhood, declared that he not only was eminently fitted to be entrusted with the sale of arms and ammunition, but was the only practical man in the district who could repair arms. His brother, Mr. William Harkness, who was one of the two licensed persons in the town, was, of course, qualified, but all his time was devoted to his business of a plumber and sanitary engineer, having no time to devote to repairs of arms.

He begged to move the reduction of the salary of the Chief Secretary by £100. If he got some satisfactory assurance from the right hon. Gentleman he would not proceed to a division.

*MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.) hoped this man Harkness would be allowed to carry on the business which he had carried on for years. He was sorry the Chief Secretary was not in his place, as he wanted to ask him a question or two concerning the Kilmeen, County Cork, tradegy. On Tuesday last he asked the right hon. Gentleman—

"Whether he was aware that a memorial was presented to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in reference to the case of Andrew Moore, who was convicted at the Cork Spring Assizes, 1903, for the murder of the Rev. Mr. Bell, and sentenced to be hanged, signed by the doctors who examined the body of the deceased and who gave evidence at the trial, and who stated in the memorial that it was impossible for them to say that the wounds on the deceased were ante-mortem ; and, if so, whether he will lay the case before the Lord-Lieutenant with a view to the release of Moore, whose sentence was commuted to penal servitude ?"

And the reply was—

"So far from the doctors having declared that they were unable to say whether the wound was ante-mortem or not, they in their evidence most distinctly and emphatically stated that it was their clear opinion that the wound must have been inflicted during the lifetime of the deceased. The Lord-Lieutenant, who had had the case before him, had not seen his way to exercise the Royal prerogative in the manner suggested."

Of course he was aware that the doctors stated that in their evidence, but was it not a fact that those doctors subsequently memorialised the Lord-Lieutenant, and stated that it was impossible for them to say that the wounds on the deceased were inflicted during life ? He was informed on good authority that the doctors in their memorial stated that the wounds were ante-mortem. Was the Attorney-General aware that the Solicitor-General for Ireland, who conducted this prosecution, relied upon the fact, in addressing the jury, that no evidence of character was given on behalf of the prisoner. If the Solicitor-General wanted to carry on these prosecutions fairly, he should rely on the evidence before him and that alone. He urged that the prisoner ought to be released. In view of the manner in which the Solicitor-General charged the jury, he asked the Attorney-General to lay the case before the Chief Secretary with a view to a reconsideration of the case.

MR. ATKINSON was understood to say in reply that the hon. Gentleman was mistaken. The doctors in their evidence at the trial and in their memorial to the Lord-Lieutenant declared most positively that the wound was inflicted during life. This matter rested entirely with the Lord-Lieutenant. With regard to what the Solicitor-General said in his address to the jury he did not think he was wrong in the observation he made to the jury, because it was a mere statement of law.

*MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY asked why should the Solicitor-General refer to the character of the prisoner at all ? Why did he not go on the evidence, because the man's character had nothing to do with the case ?

MR. ATKINSON said that the prisoner's counsel urged that the prisoner was a man of good character, and therefore the Solicitor-General was justified in saying what he did.

*MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY asked why should the Crown Solicitor comment upon the fact at all ?

MR. ATKINSON said it was the duty of the representative of the Crown to say that counsel for the prisoner had produced no evidence of the fact. The sentence was commuted, as the jury had recommended him to mercy. In regard to the case of James Harkness, he was quite sure that the hon. Member had called attention to this case in all sincerity, but the hon. Member was under an entire misapprehension in supposing that the District Inspector or anybody was actuated against the man. It was on account of certain circumstances which had not been brought to the hon. Member's notice that James Harkness's application for a licence was refused. His mother had held a licence for the sale of arms and ammunition, and when she died William Harkness, who was manager of the business, obtained the licence. James Harkness, who had kept the books for his mother, set up an independent business, and also applied for a licence to the Resident Magistrate, but the police authorities could not recommend him as a fit person to hold a licence as he was of unsteady habits, and while serving with his mother had not kept the most necessary papers in a business-like manner. The hon. Member who thought that District Inspector Shiel was prejudiced against Harkness, and that he had used his influence against him, wrote a letter on 18th July last, in which he said that if County Inspector Smith had been consulted a correct account of Harkness might have been obtained. That was the person from whom information was received that he was not a proper person to get a licence. As the hon. Member was aware, it was necessary for one who sold arms and ammunition to furnish the police every month with an account of his sales. That was the only way to have a check and to ascertain how much was being sold and who were buying when affairs were in a disturbed condition. This man would never supply particulars; he said he was very busy, or that he had other things to do. The hon. Member knew perfectly well that this was one of the matters alleged against him. The county inspector only stated what he knew, and was not prejudiced when he gave information against this man. There could be no possible ground for suspicion that the District Inspector had any animus against Harkness, but, on the contrary, there might be some reason for Harkness to feel some against the District Inspector who, in his capacity as committee man of a local club had caused the building to be closed at certain hours owing to the disorderly conduct of some members, one of whom was Harkness.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether the Resident Magistrate would be reprimanded for the insulting manner in which he had written.

MR. ATKINSON said he hardly thought it was a case calling for a reprimand, but he thought, however, his attention should be called to the letter if this had not already been done.

*MR. DELANY said that the right hon. Gentleman the Attorney-General would recollect that a few nights ago he put to him a Question in regard to this system in Ireland of making police Returns to the Judges of Assize. The great majority of offences committed and reported upon were sending threatening letters. Who sent these letters? He believed that most of them were bogus, and that the judicial system in Ireland, which made these Returns necessary, was indefensible, because one of its effects was to produce criminals like Sullivan, Sheridan, and French. Why should it be given into the hands of such men to prepare Returns for the Irish Judges, who were expected to make speeches on them? Did the present condition of things warrant such an exceptional system? Under what law where these Returns made, and what justification was there for their continuance? His hon. friend the Member for Clare had spoken of the hopeful auguries for the future in Ireland, and while he sympathised with that speech he wondered whether the Committee were aware that certain sections of the Coercion Act were practically in force in several counties in Ireland. What reason existed for the Crimes Act at all? It was passed at a time of excitement, brought about by the Pigott forgeries in 1887. Many changes had taken place in the country since then, and he did not think that under the present circumstances, with all the booming about a better state of things, that this Coercion Act should remain in force. He hoped to get a definite expression of opinion on this subject from the right hon. the Attorney-General for Ireland.

MR. ATKINSON said that Section II. of the Crimes Act, which enabled two resident magistrates to try crimes of a certain character, was only enforced in a very small area in the country; and it was the desire of the Chief Secretary as far as possible to relieve the whole country from the operations of all exceptional legislation. As to the police Returns, with the centralised system of police in Ireland, it was the duty of the police to keep a record of the crimes which were reported to them, and the Judges of Assize, as the representatives of the Sovereign, had a right to demand from the persons interested in the preservation of the peace what information was available as to the condition of the town or district. As a matter of fact, it was formerly the custom to report to the Judges of Assize the condition of the military in each district. He remembered that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose Burghs, when he was Chief Secretary for Ireland, said that after investigation he had come to the conclusion that the Judges had a right to demand this information. Whether it was accurate or inaccurate was not to the point. There was no opportunity of testing the accuracy of these Returns, and they should be taken for what they were worth.

Vote agreed to.

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [22ND ALLOTTED DAY].

(Considered in Committee.)

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

CLASS I.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £321,697, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1904, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, &c., in respect of Government Property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expenses of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said that while Government property was exempt from rating, yet, as a matter of conscience, the Government made contributions in lieu of the rates paid by other owners and occupiers. Government property was of many kinds, such as prisons, barracks, and other buildings; and the main objection to the present system was that the Government were their own valuers, and that any contribution made in lieu of rates was the result of an assessment by a Government valuer. Such contributions were not, however, in themselves adequate; and it put an additional burden on the other owners and occupiers in any particular locality. Where the contribution was inadequate a small minority of the general taxpayers in the district concerned had to make up the difference. That was a form of class taxation of the very worst character. Not only had the ratepayers in a particular locality to pay their own rates, but they had to make up the deficiency which resulted from the under-valuation of Government property. He himself had often protested against the principle of the Government being its own valuer. It was difficult to imagine what would happen if every man was his own valuer. Why should not Government property be valued as private property by the local assessment committee, providing, of course, for some form of appeal or a settlement by arbitration.

When the late Mr. Hanbury represented the Treasury, although the principle was not conceded, there was a great improvement in practice as regarded the amounts paid in rates by the Government, and in fact there was a time when there was no very great complaint apart from exceptional cases; although the exceptions were very marked. He would submit to the Committee a few instances of under-assessment in Islington, Windsor, and Woolwich. In Islington, one of the great Metropolitan prisons covered an area of 4 acres and was rated at only £4,000. Incidentally he might remark that executions were now carried out in that prison, the consequence being that houses adjoining the prison had been vacated, the assessment value being rendered considerably lower. The Northern District Post Office was valued at only £340, and the County Court at £233; and he was assured by the borough authorities and by the chairman of the rating committee that these were very inadequate valuations. Another prison in the locality which covered upwards of 4 acres was valued at only £4,261. These were instances of the complaints which were made by the borough authorities of Islington. The borough of Windsor furnished even a more striking illustration. Owing to the residence of the Crown at Windsor, improvements had to be made; public works had to be carried out; and the streets and roads of the borough were considerably injured by mounted troops passing over them. Yet the valuation of Government property in the borough was very low. The cavalry barracks, which covered 18 or 19 acres, were valued at only £2,350; the infantry barracks were only valued at £1,760; and he was assured by competent authorities that for the purposes of a fair assessment these valuations ought to be at least double what they were. No contribution whatever was paid in respect of Windsor Castle, which covered 30 acres; and in respect of the Home Park, the Commissioners of Woods and Forests paid only £30, which was obviously an under-assessment. Therefore the inhabitants of the borough were compelled to make up the deficiency which existed in consequence of the inadequate contribution given by the Government. As regarded Woolwich, he was assured on competent authority that the Arsenal, the Royal Dockyards, the barracks and other Government buildings, were all considerably undervalued. His noble friend the Member for Greenwich, when the subject was debated last session, spoke very strongly about the undervaluation of Government property in that borough also. As showing the unfairness of the valuation of Government property in Woolwich, he would mention that the gas works at Beckton were valued at £51,440, whereas the Arsenal, which had valuable buildings and fixed machinery and covered eight times the area of the gas works, was valued at only £55,877. That was certainly a great disparity. It would not be fair to occupy the attention of the Committee further; and he would, therefore, content himself by protesting once more against the principle which he had described.

MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said that he was so often in agreement on administrative questions with the hon. Baronet that he found himself with the greatest regret obliged to differ from him on this occasion. The hon. Gentleman represented with conspicuous ability the interests of municipal corporations in this House. However, he himself trusted that whatever action the Treasury might take in this matter, they would remember the extremely liberal provision which had already been made in this connection. There was a time when no provision at all was made. The fact was that it was a great benefit to a city or town to have these Government institutions. He had in his mind towns which were now competing for the establishment of similar institutions; and he knew that they would be prepared to make great sacrifices to secure them. He believed there was among hon. Members representing country constituencies, at all events, a very strong feeling that the utmost possible limit had been reached in this matter; and he could assure the Secretary of the Treasury that he would receive very considerable support in resisting a motion to increase the present contributions. He again wished to express his very great regret that he was obliged to differ from his hon. friend on that particular question.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said he agreed with what had been said by his hon. friend. Originally, rates were not paid in respect of Crown property; and subsequently the principle was introduced of paying a certain amount as a gratuitous allowance. It should be remembered that there was a great variety of Crown property. In London, they had many museums which were of enormous benefit to the inhabitants. It was obvious that where buildings of that kind were concerned, it would be grossly unfair to rate them as if they were private property, and that they should be handed over to the local authority for rating purposes. If they were handed over, it would be found that they would be valued for assessment at a very considerable sum indeed. When private property was valued, the valuation was based on a just and proportionate principle, because the character of the properties was similar; but no principle of comparison would exist in connection with the valuation of Government buildings, as they were of an entirely different class. The question had been frequently raised and the Government had always opposed it. He himself thought the Government property should be classified. For instance, why should the British Museum, which the inhabitants of the district in which it was situated availed themselves of, and which increased the valuation of adjacent property, be liable to increased taxation? Then again, with reference to post offices, every local authority wanted the post office to select the best site in the town, and to erect the most handsome building; but then they asked the post office to pay heavily in rates because of the value of the site and the building. If a local authority insisted on a valuable building being put up, it was unfair that they should assess it accordingly. The hon. Baronet had taken a most active part in obtaining rates for Government property, and had rendered an incalculable amount of benefit to local authorities, who, he was sure, appreciated the hon. Gentleman's exertions. When, however, a new Secretary to the Treasury was appointed, the demand of the hon. Baronet was certain to be renewed. In 1895 the Government rates in England amounted to £250,800; at present they were £485,500, or nearly double. The buildings had not doubled in that period, and it was obvious that it was the valuation which went up.

SIR A. ROLLIT said that the poundage had also increased.

MR. CALDWELL said that was so, but it had not increased 100 per cent. In Scotland, the amount of Government rates in 1895 was £20,500, now it was £23,000; in Ireland the respective amounts were £41,000 and £52,000. Scotland appeared to be absolutely stationary, although the rates in the other countries had increased by leaps and bounds. There was great complaint in Scotland that the telegraph wires were not valued, and it was contended that they should be valued just as if they were the property of a private company, such as the National Telephone Company. He hoped the Secretary to the Treasury would be able to inform the Committee what was the amount of assessment now levied on the Osborne estate, which had been handed over to the Government. The total revenue from the estate was only £1,000, and it was probable that the Government would be asked to pay far more than that amount as rates. The hon. Baronet referred to the Beckton Gas Works, but it was well known that the principle on which gas works were valued differed very much from the principle on which dwelling-houses were valued. The valuation of gas works was based on the revenue which was derived from them. A Return should, however, be presented to Parliament showing the valuation of all the property of the Crown throughout the United Kingdom, and the manner in which it was rated; and in compiling that Return it would be important to classify Government property as far as possible. Property of a mercantile character should be dealt with on the same principle as if it were privately owned. If the Government carried on dockyards and other businesses which were also carried on by private enterprise they ought to pay rates just as if they were private individuals. But there was a great distinction between cases of that kind, and, for instance, the case of Windsor Castle. Everyone knew that the Castle did not in any way deteriorate Windsor; the very fact that the Castle was there increased property all round. The population flocked to the Castle, not the Castle to the population. He hoped the matter would be put on a fair footing; but the principle should not be conceded that Government property should be handed over to an ordinary valuation tribunal or even a County Court Judge. At present they had to pay three prices for Government property; and the same principle would occur in connection with valuation.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham) said the two hon. Gentlemen opposite had discussed the subject brought before the Committee in the able and interesting speech of his hon. friend the Member for South Islington very impartially. The hon. Gentlemen pointed out very clearly what were the considerations which it behoved the Government to bear in mind in considering this question. The question they had to consider was how far money was to be provided by the local ratepayer and how far by the general taxpayer. It was an old principle handed down from their ancestors that the Crown property was not to be subject to rates. Crown property nowadays represented public property; and the effect of putting taxation on Crown property was merely to take money out of the pocket of the public or general taxpayer instead of taking it out of the pocket of the local ratepayer. He listened with great interest to the speech of his hon. friend who brought forward the subject. It was a little difficult to pity the inhabitants of Windsor, for all knew that the cause of the prosperity of Windsor, and in no small degree of its wealth, was the presence there of a residence of the Sovereign. It was perfectly true that palaces in the personal occupation of the Sovereign were not rated at all; but all other Crown property was now, as a matter of fact, subject to contributions for local purposes. The principle adopted by the Department was to send down to the different localities their own valuers, who, to the best of their ability, put on Crown property an assessable value. The valuer made it a rule to see the assessment committee in a locality, and to inquire into the general rating in the district, and endeavoured to find out what would be an adequate and proper contribution to the local rates. In 99 cases out of 100—indeed, in 999 cases out of 1,000—there was no difficulty in coming to an agreement with the local authority.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) said the local authorities had to take what was offered, or get nothing.

MR. ELLIOT said that unless there was satisfaction, he did not think they could have the present peaceful and happy state of agreement. At any rate, as a matter of fact, the assessment committees did not make any complaints against the valuations. He ventured to think that was a fair proof of the fairness with which valuations were conducted. Rating matters, no doubt, rested largely on an old law sanctified by centuries, namely, what a hypothetical tenant would be likely to give for particular premises. But there a great difficulty arose, because how could it be estimated what a hypothetical tenant was willing to offer for, for instance, a lunatic asylum, a cavalry barracks, or a submarine mine. It came to this, that they had to take one thing with another; and he agreed that it was a very great proof of the fairness of the present system that so very few complaints were received. Owing to the efforts of his hon. friend, no doubt, there had been a great change in these matters, and public property now contributed more largely to local purposes than previously. But when his hon. friend contended that not only should local property contribute to local purposes, but that the locality should decide what amount should be paid by public property, he could not agree, as it lay with the Government to maintain the balance as between the general taxpayer and the local ratepayer. The hon. Member for Mid Lanark suggested that telegraph wires were not rated in Scotland. He did not understand that that was the case.

MR. CALDWELL asked on what valuation they were rated.

MR. ELLIOT said he understood that the hon. Gentleman's complaint was that the telegraph wires were not rated at all.

MR. CALDWELL said he understood that local authorities in Scotland complained that the amount was not sufficient.

MR. ELLIOT said he was sure that the hon. Gentleman understood the matter thoroughly, otherwise he would not have brought it forward; but he was informed that telegraph wires in Scotland did pay a contribution to local purposes. He did not know that he could enter into any details with regard to specific localities, such as Islington and Woolwich. He would say, however, that, with regard to Woolwich, the valuation had only recently been revised, and in any event the localities mentioned could not be regarded as neglected areas. Wherever new buildings were put up it was the business of the Government valuer to go down and value the premises. The rise in the amount paid in rates was due very largely to the increase in poundage, and also to the new and more expensive buildings the Government were always erecting or acquiring. The only object of the Government was to keep the balance fair between the general taxpayer and the local ratepayer, and anything that hon. Members could do towards that object would be welcomed by the Government and would assist in securing that what was right in the matter was done.

MR. CROOKS said that on this particular question he had a very varied and wide experience. The hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury talked of mutual agreement between the Government valuer and the local authorities. He had been chairman of an assessment committee for many years, and had been a party to many such agreements; but they were always arrived at because they were told the Government were prepared to give a certain sum and no more, and that there was no appeal. It was a case of leave it or take it; and, of course, it was accepted with the best possible grace.

MR. ELLIOT said that when local authorities wrote and said they entirely agreed with the valuations, he did not think it could be said that an agreement had been extorted from them.

MR. CROOKS said that was the art of polite letter-writing. It was the duty of the clerk to a local authority to inform the Government of what had happened in the politest possible language. The argument that it was a distinct advantage to a locality to have Government buildings was pushed too far. For instance, what advantage was it to a locality to have such a building as Holloway Gaol? He thought the Government should be put in exactly the same position as a private firm. The hon. Member for Mid Lanark said that although he was not in favour of Government property paying on full assessment, nevertheless Government telegraph wires should be fully assessed. That was the old argument of assessing everybody else. The Government should get over all these squabbles about assessment if they introduced a measure to carry out a proper permanent assessment, to which all property would be liable. At present, many people got off because they had friends on the local assessment committee. Others had to pay more because they had no friends. A post office or a police station had a right to contribute to the local rates just as if it were in private occupation A new ammunition company which was now established at Plumstead was perfectly entitled to say that if Woolwich Arsenal was properly assessed they should not be called upon to pay as much as they were. Surely, it was not impossible to arrive at a proper method of assessment. It was asked why should they rate the Palace of Westminster; but if the Palace of Westminster were removed what magnificent flats could be put up, and what a large assessment they would yield. He hoped the contributions-in-aid would go on increasing until the Government agreed to an impartial and proper assessment.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said there was an item for £8,000 for rates for houses occupied by the representatives of Foreign Powers. That was £1,600 increase over last year; and he was informed that the representatives of this country in foreign countries did not have their rates paid for them. He wished to know if that was correct or not. If it was, it was curious that this country should be asked to pay the rates of foreign representatives, whereas its own representatives abroad had to pay their own rates.

MR. ELLIOT said the rates remitted on the houses of representatives of foreign countries were remitted according to a system of reciprocity. In the cases where remissions were given our representatives abroad were similarly treated.

MR. CALDWELL said he wished to move to reduce Item G—the Government contribution of £10,000 to the expenses of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade—by the sum of £1,000. When this matter came before the late Mr. Hanbury he took very considerable interest in it. Now, however, London had the benefit of two sums—not only the contribution of £10,000, but also the amount paid locally on Government property.

Motion made, and Question put, "That Item G be reduced by £1,000 in respect of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 179. (Division List No. 229.)

AYES.

Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Bolton. Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton. Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Labouchere, Henry
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moss, Samuel
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, George (*York, W. R.*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Wallace.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt Hn Sir Michael Hicks
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Col. H. F. (*Midd'x*)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, J. H. M (*Dublin Univ.*
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*

Mr. Crooks.

Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crooks, William
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (*Mid'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard J. (*Midd., Tottenham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks., N. R.*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Neill, Hon Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Maj J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson, Dr. E C (*Monagh'n N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*)
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Original question put, and agreed to.

And, it being after Ten of the clock, the Chairman, in pursuance of Standing Order 15, put severally the Questions That the total amounts of the Votes outstanding in each Class of the Civil Service Estimates, including Supplementary Estimates, and the total amount of the Votes outstanding in the Estimates for the Army, be granted for the services defined in those Classes and Estimates.

CLASS I.

2. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £133,423, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class I. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£
13. Public Works and Buildings, Ireland - -	106,128
14. Railways, Ireland - -	27,214
	£133,342"

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 191; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 230.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balcarres, Lord

Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Col. H. F. (*Midd'x*
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon J. (*Birm.*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crooks, William
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir, Edwin
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S W*)
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr'H mlets*
Gore, Hn G R. C. Ormsby (*Salop*)
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs.*)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Iver Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks N R*)
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt Hon Walter (*Bristol S.*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (*Hants*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N*
O'Neill, Hon Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Pierpont, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson Dr. E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (*Yorks*)
Wodehouse, Rt Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred

Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Labouchere, Henry
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moss, Samuel
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (*Leeds, S.*
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, George, (*York W.R.*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Fenwick and Mr. Mansfield.

CLASS II.

3. Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £366,072, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class II. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

		£
1.	House of Lords Offices	4,507
2.	House of Commons Offices	16,820
5.	Foreign Office	34,887
7.	Privy Council Office	5,130
9.	Mercantile Marine Services	68,860
13.	Civil Service Commission	25,393
14.	Exchequer and Audit	38,321
15.	Friendly Societies Registry	4,581
21.	Public Works Loan Commission	13
22.	Registrar-General's Office	22,942
25.	Works and Public Buildings Office	37,200
26.	Secret Service	25,000

SCOTLAND.

27.	Secretary for Scotland's Office	9,985
28.	Fishery Board	10,837
29.	Lunacy Commission	3,162
30.	Registrar-General's Office	3,145
31.	Local Government Board	9,157

IRELAND.

32.	Lord-Lieutenant's Household	2,817
35.	Charitable Donations and Bequests	997
37.	Public Record Office	3,348
38.	Public Works Office	20,053
39.	Registrar-General's Office	6,894
40.	Valuation and Boundary Survey	12,023
		£366,072"

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 191; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 231.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Col. Henry F. (*Midd'x*
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George. H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (*City of Lond*

Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. Hmlts*
Gore, Hn. G R C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks N R.*
Lee, Arthur H. (*Hants. Fareham*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh, W*
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Maj J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson, Dr. E C (*Monagh'n N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (*Yorks*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moss, Samuel
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Luke White and Mr. Levy.

CLASS III.

4. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,402,874, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March,

1904, for Expenditure in respect of the following Services included in Class III. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz :—

	£
1. Law Charges	38,984
2. Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	22,489
SCOTLAND.	
10. Law Charges and Courts of Law	52,405
11. Register House, Edinburgh	27,053
12. Crofters' Commission	2,790
13. Prisons	50,840
IRELAND.	
14. Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	33,600
15. Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland	57,805
16. Land Commission	76,740
17. County Court Officers, &c.	66,527
18. Dublin Metropolitan Police	55,468
19. Royal Irish Constabulary	792,002
20. Prisons	68,508
21. Reformatory and Industrial Schools	54,099
22 Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,564
	£1,402,874”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 193; Noes, 69. (Division List No. 232.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Col. H. F (*Middlesex*
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J A (*Worc.*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dix'n
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants, W.*
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gordon, Maj Evans (*T'r H'mlets*
Gore, Hn G. R C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W, Raymond (*Cambs.*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords, N. W*
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N R*
Lee, Arthur H. (*Hants, Fareham*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt Hon. James (*Kent*
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*

Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J. (*Walthamstow*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks*)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*)
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bell, Richard
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moss, Samuel
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (*Leeds, S*
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Layland-Barratt and Mr. Toulmin.

CLASS IV.

5. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £854,228, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of the following Services, included in Class IV. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£.
6. Scientific Investigation, &c. (United Kingdom) . . .	45,000
8. Public Education (Scotland) . . .	808,828
9. National Gallery (Scotland) . . .	400
	£854,228"

The Committee divided; Ayes, 193; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 233).

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balcarres, Lord

Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach,RtHnSir Michael Hicks
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles,Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V.C.W.(*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(*Birm*
Chamberlain,Rt.HnJ.A(*Worc.*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A.Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox,Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig,CharlesCurtis(*Antrim,S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale,Rt.Hon.SirJosephC.
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants,W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes,Hon.Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt.HnSirJ.(*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Forster, Henry William
Foster,Philip S. (*Warick,S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs,HnA.G.H(*City of Lond.*
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry S.*)
Gordon,Maj Evans-(*Tr. Hmlts*
Gore,HnG.R.C.Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gore,Hon.S.F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene,Henry D.(*Shrewsbury*)
Greene,W. Raymond (*Cambs.*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(*Midd'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath, Jas. (*Staffords., N.W.*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir A.(*Stafford,W.*
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard,J. (*Midd.,Tottenham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys,Rt.Hon.Arthur Fred.
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon.Geo.T.(*Denbigh*)
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence,Sir Joseph(*Monm'th*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson,JohnGrant(*Yorks,NR*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(*Bristol,S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Reginald J.(*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver,SirLewis (*Edinb'rghW*
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu,Hon. J. Scott (*Hants*
Moon, Edward Robert Pacey
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,Rt. HnAGraham(*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col.Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan,Col.John P.(*Galway N.*
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.Thos Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(*Renfrew*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, AbelH. (*Hertford,East*
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs*)
Sturt, Hn. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson,DrEC(*Monagh'n,N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamH
Webb, ColonelWilliam George
Welby, Sir Charles G.E.(*Notts*
Whiteley,H.(*Ashtonund.Lyne*
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd,SirW.H.(*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(*Bath*)
Wortley, Rt.Hon. C.B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bell, Richard
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne,Rt.Hon. Charles Seale-
Horniman, Frederick, John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones,William (*Carn'rvonshire*
Kearley, Hudson E.

Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (*Leeds, S.*
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, George (*York, W.R.*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Warner and Mr. Lough.

CLASS V.

6. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,236,998 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class V. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£
1. Diplomatic and Consular Services	284,780
2. British Protectorates in Uganda	445,593
3. Colonial Services . .	361,525
4. Cyprus (Grant-in-Aid) .	2,000
5. Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable . . .	40,100
6. Treasury Chest Fund .	103,000
	£1,236,998"

The Committee divided:— Ayes, 195; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 234.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt Hon Sir Michael Hicks
Bell, Richard
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bowles, Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J A (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*S'thampton*)
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrance, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Dowu, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants. W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S. W.*)
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry S.*)
Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. H'mlets*
Gore, Hn G R C. Ormsby-(*Salop*)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-(*Linc*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Middx*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W*
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford W.*
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut. Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (*Bristol S.*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William

Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Loyd Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
Markham, Arthur Basil
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway N.*
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (*Ormskirk*
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Thompson, Dr. E C (*Monagh'n N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (*Yorks*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Moss, Samuel
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn C R. (*Northants*)
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomas, F. W. (*York, E. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, George (*York, W.R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Weir and Mr. Bryn Roberts.

Class VI.

7. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £393,521, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following services included in Class VI. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
1. Superannuation and Retired Allowances (including a Supplementary sum of £4,000)	342,914
2. Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions	1,000
3. Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances .	646
4. Hospitals and Charities, (Ireland)	342
5. Savings Banks' and Friendly Societies' Deficiencies .	48,619
	£393,521"

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 197; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 235.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. HF (*Middlesex*
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Mid'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords., N. W.*
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*)
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, NR*
Lee, Arthur H (*Hants., Fareham*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M,Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinb'rgh, W*
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hon, Arthur (*Ormskirk*
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hn. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson, Dr. EC (*Monagh'n, N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und Lyne*
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Ayes
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick

Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Moss, Samuel
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, F. Freeman- (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Priestley and Mr. Partington.

CLASS VII.

8. Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £61,082, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class VII. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
4. St. Louis Exhibition . .	50,000
5. Repayment to the Civil Contingencies Fund .	11,082
	£61,082"

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 196; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 236.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynet
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Col. Henry F. (*Midd'x*)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S. W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond*
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans- (*Tr. Hmlts*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (*Mid'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd. Tottenham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks., N. R.*)
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.

Lockwood, Lieut-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinb'rgh, W*
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monaghan N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (*Yorks.*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood, and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt. Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Alfred Hutton and Mr. Nussey.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903–4.

8. Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £783,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure on the following Army Services, including Army (Ordnance Factories), viz.:—

	£
11. Establishments for Military Education . .	134,500
12. Miscellaneous Effective Services . , .	62,000
13. War Office, Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	331,500
Army (Ordnance Factories)	255,000
	£783,000"

The Committee divided—Ayes, 196; Noes, 69. (Division List, No. 237.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn Sir Michael Hicks
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F (*Middlesex*
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M (*Dublin Univ.*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Chas. Curtis (*Antrim, S.*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond- (*Cambs.*)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Moum'th*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N. R*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (*Hants*
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamst'w*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hon Arthur (*Ormskirk*
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (*Yorks.*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Ayes.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight

Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Moss, Samuel
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Clevland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Spencer, Rt Hon C R (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, F. Freeman- (*Hastings*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (*Leeds, S*
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, George (*York, W. R*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whitley Thomson and Mr. Rigg.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Rothesay Corporation Order Confirmation Bill; Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Dover Corporation Bill; Hainault Forest Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords]; Bristol Corporation Bill [Lords]; Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Manchester Corporation Bill [Lords]; Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [Lords]; Birmingham District Tramways Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1901-2.

(Considered in Committee.)

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Whereas it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.:—(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £205,224 2s. 6d., as shown in column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £220,819 4s. 1d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £15,595 1s. 7d.; (*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Grants for Navy Services fell short of the total estimated receipts by the sum of £89,584 0s. 11d., as shown in column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule, while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £168,173 16s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule, so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £78,589 15s. 9d.; (*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses -	275,779	5	11
Total Deficits -	181,594	8	7
Net Surplus -	£94,184	17	4

And whereas the Lords' Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations-in-Aid, in respect of the same services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

1. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1901-1902. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations-in-Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 ..	Wages, &c. of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coastguard, and Royal Marines	39,328 19 8	..	6,168 16 10	..
2 ..	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	3,749 7 0	..	..	13,753 19 1
3 ..	Medical Establishments and Services	..	11,570 2 0	..	503 10 2
4 ..	Martial Law	921 10 3	..	..	38 4 6
5 ..	Educational Services	..	5,831 15 5	2 14 8	..
6 ..	Scientific Services	742 5 10	..	..	3,247 1 5
7 ..	Royal Naval Reserve	..	45,773 16 10	..	82 14 4
8 ..	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.				
Sec. 1 ..	Personal	18,822 18 5	..	..	886 3 1
Sec. 2 ..	Material	86,826 19 8	..	..	70,164 7 1
Sec. 3 ..	Contract Work	..	77,974 15 9	36,800 10 11	..
9 ..	Naval Armaments	..	24,989 10 0	..	57,440 0 0
10 ..	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad ..	..	38,324 12 9	..	22,052 7 3
11 ..	Miscellaneous Effective Services	35,940 0 9	..	44,329 6 10	..
12 ..	Admiralty Office	4,975 6 7	..	..	5 [illegible]
13 ..	Half-Pay, Reserved and Retired Pay	..	16,354 11 4	824 12 0	..
14 ..	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	6,314 19 7	..	1,445 12 9	..
15 ..	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	3,704 13 11	..	12 6 11	..
	Amount written off as irrecoverable	3,897 0 10	..	..	..
		205,224 2 6	220,819 4 1	89,584 0 11	168,173 16 8
		Net Surplus, £15,595 1 7		Net Surplus, £78,589 15 9	

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer £94,184 17 4

Whereas it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.:—(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £4,796,909 14s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £2,923,978 7s. 2d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services exceeded the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £1,872,931 7s. 9d.; (*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £235,231 13s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £2,362,289 3s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £2,127,057 10s. 2d.; (*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army

Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses -	3,773,058	9	4
Total Deficits -	3,518,932	6	11
Net Surplus -	£254,126	2	5

And whereas by a Vote of Parliament during the present Session (House of Commons Paper, No. 255, of 1903) a further sum of £100 has been granted for the expenditure of the year 1901–2, and the appropriation of additional receipts in aid of such expenditure has been sanctioned to the amount of £1,872,831 7s. 9d.

And whereas the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Army Services, 1901-1902. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations-in-Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Suppluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, &c., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments) ..	689,068 5 6	..	227,385 3 1	..
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, &c. ..	99,267 3 7	..	..	2,770 9 3
3	Militia - Pay, Bounty, &c.	..	1,066,248 1 8	6,802 5 5	..
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances..	..	141,624 16 8	..	0 6 6
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances ..	..	24,276 14 2	..	1,275 12 7
6	Transport and Remounts	2,285,301 19 3	..	..	168,046 2 7
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies ..	1,506,875 16 0	..	..	1,168,151 11 0
8	Clothing Establishments, and Services ..	..	160,802 17 3	..	79,147 18 4
9	Warlike and other Stores . Supply and Repair	..	1,110,777 16 11	..	378,456 18 6
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services ..	41,394 3 9	..	..	33,895 11 6
11	Establishments for Military Education ..	..	6,188 4 0	..	3,514 16 11
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services.. ..	54,448 5 8	..	..	425,727 14 9
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	24,676 10 0	..	..	315 16 4
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, &c. ..	..	414,059 16 6	..	23,207 5 8
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, &c. ..	81,166 9 4	..	..	77,778 19 9
16	Superannuation, Compensation, & Compassionate Allowances	1,565 3 1	..	44 5 0	..
	Balances irrecoverable	13,145 18 9	..	..	..
		4,796,909 14 11	2,923,978 7 2	235,231 13 6	2,362,289 3 8
	Add Excess Vote	..	100 0 0	..	..
		4,796,909 14 11	2,924,078 7 2	235,231 13 6	2,362,289 3 8

Net Deficit, £1,872,831 7 9 Net Surplus, £2,127,057 10 2

Net Surplus ... £254,226 2 5

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS.

(Considered in Committee.)

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

1. Resolved, That, towards making good the Supply to be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, the sum of £100 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

2. Resolved, That, towards making good the Supply to be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, the sum of

£75,392,969 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom. (*Mr. Elliot.*)

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next.

SUGAR CONVENTION BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

*MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he did not think it would be necessary for him to detain the House for any great length, because there was no reason why he should repeat the arguments submitted at the various stages of the Bill. But the situation they had arrived at was in some respects very strange. Owing to a ruling of the Chairman of Committees, who held that it would be out of order to move Amendments not in harmony with the Convention, the House had been unable in Committee to express an opinion on the most drastic proposals of this measure. They had been unable to express any opinion on the bonding of factories, the necessity for certificates of origin with all sugar imports, and the extraordinary position to which Parliament would be reduced by the permanent Commission appointed under the Convention. The country had been secretly committed by the Government to all these proposals. He thought that that was unprecedented in the history of the commercial law in this country. At this last stage he asked the Committee to look back and inquire what was the origin of this Bill? Many people thought that the Colonial Secretary was the originator of this Bill, for, of course, it was an open secret that the Colonial Secretary controlled not only his own Department, but the Foreign Office, the Treasury, and the Board of Trade, and indeed every Department of the Government. None of the permanent officials in these great Departments of the State approved of the Convention, but they were forced by the imperious will of the Colonial Secretary to carry out its policy. The important thing, however, for the House to see was that the Colonial Secretary was not the originator of the Bill. The Bill had its origin in a narrow commercial interest—sugar refining and producing—and that in itself was a novelty in this House. They had been told that the interests of the sugar refiners depended on this Bill, but the debates had exploded that theory. The sugar refining industry in this country had not declined. It was now as great and probably far more profitable than ever it was. Therefore, they did not find any basis in the sugar refining industry for this drastic legislation. The Colonial Secretary had used the language of the greatest exaggeration in referring to this industry when he said that if it had developed as it should have developed it would have given employment to tens of thousands, if not to hundreds of thousands of people. What was the truth of the matter? We at present refined 40 per cent. of the sugar introduced into this country, and that gave employment to 2,418 men; if we refined the whole of the sugar therefore, that would only find employment for 6,000 men. Why, there were many single factories all over the country which employed as many men as that. He mentioned that to show the great exaggeration in which the Colonial Secretary indulged; in fact, the figures produced by the Colonial Secretary showed that he was totally ignorant of the commercial affairs of the country. The refining interest was a small, a narrow, and a petty interest. Its want of development was due to the fact that it was much more economical to complete the process of refining where sugar was produced. He therefore dismissed the interests of refiners as really not affected by the Bill. The other interest was that of the West Indies, which only sent three out of every 100 lbs. of sugar to the British consumer. Sir Neville Lubbock was the real originator of the Bill. That gentleman, who was a West Indian producer, had pressed this policy eloquently and consistently for the last thirty years. Twenty years ago the Colonial Secretary refused to accept his programme, but now he had capitulated, and the credit for this new legislation belonged entirely to Sir Neville Lubbock and one or two other representatives of West Indian producers. The Colonial Secretary had said that this Sugar Convention would give stability to the price of sugar, but that was only another way of saying that it would make sugar dearer to the British consumer.

This country went to the relief of the West Indian islands and spent on their behalf a capital of £400,000, and was giving them at present a gift at the rate of between £30,000 and £40,000 a year. Of all the sugar which the West Indies produced we only got one-fifth. Four-fifths went to the United States, and so when this House, under closure, voted last year £250,000 to the West Indies, £200,000 of it went to make sugar cheap to the United States of America. Or if they looked at it from another standpoint and had regard only to the fifty tons of sugar which we receive from the islands, the grant amounted to £5 per ton on all the sugar they sent us. That was a pretty gift to give to a small commercial class. If this Bill caused an increase of a halfpenny in the pound in the price of sugar, it would cost the country £7,500,000. If the Bill increased the cost of sugar a penny it would represent a total of £15,000,000. That was to be the result of attempting to benefit this commercial interest. In mentioning these large sums he did not believe he was indicating the real burden that this policy would involve. The real vice of the policy was contained in the extraordinary principles which the Government had accepted, and which the Colonial Secretary stated with perfect frankness. Let them look at one or two of these statements—

> "If I am to compare industries, the West Indian industry is more deserving of consideration than the jam industry . . . . which is a protected industry of the worst kind."

He deprecated any such comparison of industries. It would be an evil day for the country when they started such comparisons, because they would favour one and ignore another, the Government of the country would become corrupt, clever men would get the ear of Ministers, and their hands would be dipped secretly into the money of the taxpayers to assist a favoured industry, while others were left out in the cold. It was a most unfortunate expression for the Colonial Secretary to have used. What was the meaning of saying that jam was a protected industry? This was a misuse of words. Jam manufacturers got no help from Parliament. He thought that the great interests represented in the sugar industries of the country would resent the tone of the Colonial Secretary. The right hon. Gentleman also gave expression to another remarkable sentence, viz.—

> "Justice is a principle, but free trade is a policy; you may change your policy, but principles ought to be eternal."

What did that mean? Unless it was a piece of mere clap-trap, it meant that the principle of justice required that one producing industry should be picked out and helped. Why should it be? Did the country send these producers to the West Indies to develop their estates? If they made a profit would the country receive a share? No; they did it for their own interest, and as they were entitled to the profit, so also they ought to bear the loss. There was no principle of justice involved; it was a job. The money already given to these people was a job, and if further millions of burden were thrown on the nation it would be a still greater job, and the Colonial Secretary and the Government had no right to attempt to justify such a policy by appealing to the principles of justice. In justice the interests of the poor people of the kingdom ought to be placed in front of any one financial interest. This Bill was a type of the fiscal revolution which the Government were trying to work in the country. The same question with regard to the steel or any other industry would arise as in the case of sugar. The Government were not carrying on an inquiry; they were effecting a revolution. The Bill would make a complete change in the commercial policy of Parliament. The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated yesterday—

> "The proposal would seem to involve placing the manufactures of all these products in this country in bond."

The Privy Council would be called together next week to prohibit the import of sugar from all countries that competed with those which were parties to the Convention, to devise certificates of origin, and to place in bond all these factories which had been freely carried on for generations. The Government were placing shackles on the free trade of the country, and setting up a system of protection. Under such circumstances the country ought to be consulted.

It was time a general election was arranged for. Before such a revolutionary change in the fixed policy of the country was effected by a Government elected to bring a war to a conclusion, the voice of the people ought to be heard. What protection had the House or the country from these dangerous designs of Ministers? Nothing but the old sense of honour which used to prompt Ministers to appeal to the country before any departure was made from settled policy. This should induce the Government to consult the people on this occasion. It was because he feared that a revolution, which would have far-reaching effects on trade, was being secretly and uncandidly carried out in this country that he begged to move the rejection of the Bill.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) in seconding the motion, said he was glad to take a humble part in opposing this act of criminal folly on the part of the Government. He could not remember any measure in his Parliamentary experience which struck so directly and, he feared, fatally, at the physical welfare of the poor of the country. The Bill was the outcome of the agitation of not more than half a dozen sugar merchants and manufacturers—an agitation which had been going on for thirty years. He first came into contact with the movement in 1878, when the emissaries of this West Indian interest organised an agitation with certain working men at its head, but it was perfectly well known that the movement was not financed by the operatives engaged. The agitation was maintained by a few capitalists in the City of London, and by persons engaged in the work of sugar refining. He remembered that he was one of the chief officers of the Trades Union Congress at the time, and he was unceasingly assailed — even his private residence was not free from the attack and annoyance of an organised band of ruffians employed by the sugar interest to advocate the cause of taxing bounty-fed sugar. The Board of Trade at that time was strongly opposed to the movement, and he remembered that he had to make speeches against this anti-sugar bounty movement in many parts of the country, and that he always went to the Board of Trade for his powder and shot. It was at the Board of Trade he was supplied with ammunition for the defence of the position which the majority of working-men took up on that subject. The agitation had never died out wholly, and although the means employed in those days had ceased to be used for many years past, the same interest was still alive, and was constantly working through various channels as they now saw with greater success than was obtained in those times. It was the sugar refiners of London and Bristol, and, in those days, Greenock, who were the parties to the conspiracy against cheap sugar in this country, and he only regretted that the position taken up by the Colonial Secretary in those days had been abandoned by him in his later and more evil-disposed days, and also that the Board of Trade had now surrendered itself into the hands of the enemies of cheap food for the people of this country.

Dearer sugar would be the result of the Bill, and, if it were not the result, how was the Bill going to satisfy the nations of Europe, in whose interests the Government had entered into the alliance to force it on our people? If there was no change in the price of sugar produced, for instance, in the West India Colonies, the Bill would be a failure. He, however, feared that the Bill would not be a failure. On the contrary, he was afraid it would increase the price of the second necessity of the people in the matter of food, and it was on this ground that he opposed the Bill. He looked upon the measure as an advance guard of the foreign army that was to be let in by the Government. If the Government had their way that foreign army would invade the homes of the poor of this country, and abide in them for many years to come. Talk of "Little Englanders," he had never known a policy introduced by any Government of this country which more favoured that policy than did this Bill. It would be of great advantage to Germany; it would also be of great advantage to France. It would cheapen articles in those countries to the consumers there, and it would relieve the taxpayers of those countries at the expense of the consumers in this country. That must be the result of the legislation, and he only regretted that the Government should have commenced on a down-grade policy of that kind, and of so serious a nature without consulting the country; he regretted that they should seek to force the Bill through Parliament at the end of a long, dreary and weary session and after a most inadequate discussion. He looked upon the measure as one of the meanest description. There was not a poor child in the country which would not be deprived of pleasure of some sort, and in some cases of necessities, through the increased price of the sweetening materials used in ordinary food. Why should the poor little ones be taxed in this way in order that those who had made millions of profit out of the sugar trade of the country might still further increase their great and rapidly growing wealth. Yet that, as far as he could see, was the only object of the Bill which he opposed, because he believed it was inimical to the real interests of the poor. He believed it was betraying the best interests of the welfare of the poor for the benefit of those who could well do without the assistance of the House in this great industry, and he sincerely trusted that even at this eleventh hour some hon. Members on the other side of the House would rise superior to Party bondage, and stand out, especially as they were nearing the time when they would have to give an account of their stewardship. He hoped they would stand out fearlessly against Government influences of this kind and vote against a measure of protection to the rich at the cost of the struggling poor. He begged to second the Motion.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."

MR. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby) said the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down apparently did not remember that strong language did not make arguments. As a matter of fact, they had heard his speech, and the speech which had been delivered by the hon. Member for West Islington, at least a score of times before in that House, and he did not think he need take up the time of the House in traversing the arguments put forward by the hon. Member. The hon. Gentleman the Member for Leicester had referred to a movement which took place some years ago, and had he known that he was going to do so, he would certainly have looked up his papers upon the subject, because he thought he would have been able to show therefrom that the people were strongly in favour of this measure of justice to our sugar-producing colonies, and also to the refining interests at home. He would remind the House of one reason why the agitation had ceased. It was because the refineries themselves were silent. Where, in fact, were the refiners in the East of London? [AN HON. MEMBER: "Tate's."] They had been broken up, and the people who had been engaged in them had been transferred to other trades, and that fact alone accounted for their silence. He congratulated the House that, however tardily, it was at least doing justice to a great industry, and that it was also doing justice to British subjects whether at home or in any Crown colony.

It had been frequently stated that England was not a producing country, and therefore was not concerned. He would inform the House, however, that the cultivation of beet had been tried in England for several years, and there was ample evidence to show that it could be grown equally well in this country as in the North of France or Germany. This Convention would be a charter of freedom in the cultivation of beet, and would give people of enterprise, interested in agriculture, a fair opening for introducing a valuable new cultivation throughout the length and breadth of the land.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) appreciated the indignation which had found such adequate expression in the speeches of the mover and seconder of the Motion for the rejection of the Bill, and associated himself with all the arguments they had used, but the feeling uppermost in his mind in the course of recent debates had been one not so much of indignation as of surprise at the action of the Government in agreeing to such a Convention, and introducing such a Bill. Why had they done it? He was certain it was not due to the Treasury or to the Board of Trade; the speeches of the representatives of those Departments showed that their convictions in the matter were not very deep-seated. It was the work of some other department. How were the people of this country to benefit by the policy embodied in the Convention and the Bill? He could understand the benefit of the policy to Germany, France, and Austria, who had been paying money for the support of the sugar industry out of the pockets of their people. They had a natural interest to get rid of this heavy charge, and in securing this Convention they had twisted us round their fingers. The Bill was obviously framed in their interests, and had relation to Continental and not to British conditions. It was an absurd, confused, clumsy return to protectionist ideas, and was filled with intricate devices in the interest of protectionist countries. This unlucky Convention was being made by this Act part of the law of Great Britain, and all the permanent Commission might choose to dictate was to be binding on us, and we had got to follow in a humble manner all the behests of this body sitting at Brussels on which we had one very small voice and the interests of most of whom were opposed to those of this country. That was the position in which we had been landed, and what a grotesque inconsistency there was in the manner in which that position had been brought about. It was advocated nominally in the interests of free trade, but upon protectionist doctrines, and by men many of whom were avowed protectionists. It was said that Great Britain ought more and more to make her trade independent of foreign countries, and yet here we were binding ourselves in a new set of chains, and pledging ourselves to do what other countries prescribed. We were told we ought to suspect Germany and to regard her interests as hostile to our own; yet it was under the lead of Germany that this Convention had been made, and Germany more than any other country would benefit by it. We were told we ought to give all the help we could to our colonies, but by this Convention we abandoned all power of giving them any preference. Lastly, we were told that we ought to do everything we could to promote British manufactures. How were they going to benefit British manufactures by this Act? They were going to raise the price of the raw material to the large manufacturers, and in addition to raising the price they were going to divert the bounties from the production of that raw material which they at present obtained on advantageous terms to the production of manufactures to compete with ourselves. With one hand they were raising the price of the raw material, and with the other asking them to subsidise those goods which competed with British goods. That was indeed a new fiscal policy. This new fiscal policy was unwise in its conception, it had been unskilful in its negotiation, and it would be unprofitable in its results. He had the gravest possible doubt whether this Act would be of any benefit whatever to the West Indies. The most that the President of the Board of Trade ventured to say for it was that it would steady prices. That was not what the West Indies asked for or expected. They expected the price to be raised. He had been in both Cuba and Jamaica, and the belief there was that the price would be raised. He greatly doubted whether prices would be made much more steady by the operation of the other forces by which prices were affected. They must mistrust prophecies which were given them in this way. The last prophecy was the one which they had from the hon. Member for Liverpool. The argument of his hon. friend the Member for Liverpool was that this Convention might result in the increased cultivation of beet in this country. That was an argument they heard for the first time that night; but if the cultivation of beet became a source of profit to the agriculturists of this country, it would enter into competition with the West Indies, and then what became of the benefit which this Act was to confer on those Islands?

MR. LAWRENCE said he did not take such a partial view as to consider only the West Indies.

MR. BRYCE said that up to the present in all the debates the only tangible benefit that was expected to accrue from this Act was expected to accrue to the West Indies. The interests of the West Indies was the only one argument they had been able to grasp as being something tangible. He really doubted whether there would be any benefit to the West Indies under this Convention. The commercial misfortunes of the West Indies were much deeper than anything this Bill could remedy. This was not the right method. If they were to spend money upon benefiting the West Indies and giving them a chance of recovering their prosperity, they would effect far more, in his opinion, by establishing factories and by encouraging the intelligent cultivation of sugar-cane and other products than they could possibly effect by this Convention. With regard to the astonishment which this Convention inspired, he himself could not understand why the Government had entered into it. As he had already expressed his distrust of prophecies, he would not venture to make any. He would not say whether the price would be steady or whether it would rise or not, but he ventured to express the hope that the Government would make as few orders as possible and interfere as little as they could with the course of trade. He hoped the Government would take the first opportunity they could of extricating themselves from a very embarrassing position in which the only gain to Great Britain or her colonies that he could see would be that of learning by experience that the best policy was to mind our own business, and to allow trade to go on without interference by Government or by legislation.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said that the right hon. Gentleman desired not to put trade, as it was put by this Convention, into its natural channels, but to allow the West Indies to live upon a perpetual system of bounties and state-aided manufactures.

MR. BRYCE said that he had anticipated any criticism of that kind for he had made it clear that he had committed himself to nothing of the kind. He said that there were grave objections to any such policy; but if money were to be spent, it would be spent more profitably in that way than in the manner chosen by the Government. Surely that was an argument which the right hon. Gentleman could understand.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the right hon. Gentleman rejected with scorn and astonishment the policy of aiding the West Indies by placing trade in its natural channels. There were left, then, the alternatives of aiding the West Indies by subventions—of which the right hon. Gentleman strongly disapproved—or of not aiding them at all. The right hon. Gentleman would evidently leave the West Indies in their present position. He did not know whether the whole of the Opposition, including the right hon. Member for Berwick, who was a member of the Committee which dwelt upon the difficulties in which the West Indies were placed, agreed with the right hon. Gentleman; but all he could say was that he hoped there never would be a Government in this country which would take the right hon. Gentleman's view of our duties and responsibilities to the West Indian colonies.

MR. BRYCE asked the right hon. gentleman whether his argument was intended to justify a policy of pecuniary subsidies to the colonies. It was only that he had expressed disapproval of, and he should like to know whether the right hon. Gentleman was advocating, that policy, and, if so, where he stopped.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR did not think the right hon. Gentleman had improved his position by that interruption. The Government had proposed a policy, of which he should have something to say directly, which at all events had for its object, and would, he thought, have for its result, the making of the trade in sugar free trade. That was the policy of the Government. The right hon. Gentleman did not want a policy of subsidies, and therefore, he wanted to leave the West Indies alone. That was the point to which he was driving the right hon. Gentleman, and from that point he could not escape. He himself trusted that a Government would never be in power in this country which took that view. The right hon. Gentleman talked as if this was a recent invention, sprung upon an astonished country. He must know that this had been the declared policy of the present Government for a long time. He must also know it had been the declared policy of Governments long antecedent to the present Government, and not sharing their general views in politics. He must surely know that when Lord Palmerston was Prime Minister and Mr. Gladstone Chancellor of the Exchequer this very policy was the declared and deliberate policy of the Government, embodied in a formal instrument with the French Government.

MR. LOUGH: Which a surtax justified.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether the hon. Gentleman thought that the description of it, a surtax, altered the broad statement he had made. What did it matter how they described it? These Gentlemen might say there was the fact that the British Government, with Mr. Gladstone as its Chancellor of the Exchequer, endeavoured by a formal instrument to abolish bounties on sugar. The statement that the Government were prepared to admit chocolates and other manufactures into which sugar entered, which manufactures might be made with bounty-fed sugar, was based on an entire misconception. Hon. Gentlemen opposite had the idea that the more bounties the better. They loved bounties in so far as they benefited consumers in this country. They liked the system, otherwise why did they object to this Bill? The Government objected equally to bounty-fed sugar and bounty-fed chocolate, and the only reason why they did not accept the Amendment which was discussed at great length yesterday, was, in the first place, because they did not believe as a matter of fact that there would be any chocolate or similar products thrown into this country made out of bounty-fed sugar. They did not believe from the best advice they could obtain that there was the smallest probability, or possibility, of that result. They laid it down, in the second place, that if this result occurred it would be the first and most immediate duty of the Government of this country to stop it by legislation; and, in the third place, the only proper way to stop it was by legislation *ad hoc*, because if the legislation was to be embodied in this Bill the manufacturers of chocolate and others in this country would be compelled to carry on their manufactures in bond under the control of the Brussels Convention. If this difficulty should ever arise they would deal with it in their own way, and in the least onerous and objectionable way to the trade they desired to protect. On the broad issue, however, he defended the policy of the Bill, because he desired to see international trade carried on upon the true lines which had always commended themselves to the great free-traders of this country—namely, without the unnatural stimulus given either by foreign protective duties or foreign bounties. It was true, and the Government did dot deny it, that the effect of a foreign bounty must be to benefit the consumer in this country. But they thought that the uncertainty thrown into trade, the impossibility of asking capitalists to invest their money in the most advanced machinery, the variations in prices, and the fact that when the rival trades were destroyed by bounties their competitors obtained the power to raise the price beyond what it was before—all these circumstances cooperated to make legislation of this kind desirable, not in the interests of the manufacturer or the safety of capital, but in the interest of the consumer, whose real interest was not to have this or that article cheap for a year or two, but to have it on terms on which alone it could be permanently produced to advantage, to open up competition with the best machinery available, and with security to the capitalist. In this Bill the Government had tried to cut their way in no new or untried paths. They were following in the steps of their predecessors on both sides of the House, and he was confident that when the country came to consider in its proper aspects the policy which the Government recommended they would say that it was not only in consonance with economic justice, but in the real interests of the consumer himself.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that the Prime Minister said that he was only pursuing the course which had been taken by his predecessors. No one who had followed the history of this subject during the Parliamentary life of those present could fail to be aware of the fact that never at any time until two years ago had the policy of this Bill been even dreamt of. Statements were certainly made by both parties as to getting rid of bounties, but there was an essential change between now and the time of Lord Palmerston. Cheap sugar industries had grown up since that date. He still more sharply denied the amazing statement of the Prime Minister that the effect of this Bill was to let trade flow in its natural channel. Was it conceivable that the Government could have worked themselves into a frame of mind that prohibition, destruction, sinking of cargoes at the Nore, was no more than the returning of trade to its natural channels? Nor would the arguments of the Prime Minister in regard to the West Indies bear the examination of the House. The right hon. Gentleman taunted them with having no policy for the West Indies. Why, many of them on that side of the House had, year after year, until they were tired by the very uselessness of the effort, developed a West Indian policy. [MINISTERIAL cries of "What policy?"] The policy of relying on the coloured people as a peasant proprietary—the only policy by which the West Indies could be saved. The policy of the Government was practically one of bolstering up of a decaying and almost dead industry which nothing could save. The whole policy of the Bill was mischievous, and more so when supported by such arguments as those used by the Prime Minister, which were fatal to the whole fiscal system of the country.

*MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said that the avowed object of the Bill, according to the Prime Minister, was to make sugar less cheap than at present.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that in the opinion of the Government the price of sugar would not be raised, but, on the contrary, that it would be diminished.

*MR. THEODORE TAYLOR said that that did not meet his point. He believed that the Government had an honest desire to deal with a very difficult problem, but if their policy would not raise the price of West Indian sugar, how was it going to help the West Indies? If this policy must be undertaken it would be better done by countervailing duties which we ourselves could control. This country would then at all events have retained the money paid by these other countries. He did not say that countervailing duties were a good thing. They were but one degree less bad than the course now being taken. The Government were doing a bad thing in the worst possible way; they were increasing the cost of over 90 per cent. of the sugar for the sake of 3 or 4 per cent.; they were throwing not a sprat to catch a salmon, but a salmon to catch a sprat; and in this matter it was not unfair to say that the Government were the friends of every country but their own. As an Englishman he objected to going cap in hand to a foreign Commission and asking what duties we should impose on the sugar we imported. A great fallacy underlay the arguments of the Prime Minister and the President of the Board of Trade. They seemed to imagine that they could fix the normal or natural price. In 1884 the cost of the Colonial Company's sugar was £16; in 1896 it was £8. Who could say what was the normal or natural price. Conditions were continually changing, and by the application of science and better methods production was getting cheaper. The price would continually vary, and not even the Prime Minister of England could fix a figure as the normal natural price. When the Government Departments were able to manage business better than business men, then would be the time for them to begin to fix prices. The West Indies were said to be the cause of this legislation. They were the *enfants gâtés* of the British Empire; they had been spoilt from time immemorial. How far did the Government intend to carry this principle of regulating prices, or the attempt to establish fresh artificial conditions to neutralise those already in operation? Was it to be applied to shipping preferences or railway rates? Was a duty to be placed on foreign cloth because wages were lower and the hours longer in countries from where it came? Did not such conditions constitute an unfair preference? Who was to decide what were natural and what were artificial advantages? It was impossible for any Government or Party to say what was the natural price of a commodity. There was undoubtedly an artificial bounty at present, but the Government would have been better advised to have let the bounty die a natural death. It was because he firmly believed that the Bill would inflict a great injustice on the people of this country that he had ventured to intervene at so late an hour.

*MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said that up to the present he had contented himself with recording silent votes in opposition to the Bill, and would not have risen on the present occasion but for the repetition of the statement that several working men's organisations of the country had passed resolutions in favour of the proposals now under consideration. Having considerable knowledge of the agitation referred to, which took place fifteen years ago, he desired to show that the statement was altogether erroneous. During the debate on a former stage of the Bill, they had read to them a circular purporting to be an expression of the opinion of organised bodies of workmen throughout the United Kingdom. He was astonished that that circular should have been read out to the House, and he could only account for the temerity of the hon. Gentleman who read it out by the supposition that he did not know the real nature and character of the circular and the circumstances under which it was issued. During the Committee stage of the Bill the hon. Member for the Clitheroe Division attempted to explain—but he was ruled out of Order by the Chairman for attempting to do so—that that circular was really one of the most barefaced attempts ever made to impose upon the country in regard to the *bonâ fide* expression of the people's will. The agitation from first to last was absolutely bounty-fed, and there were not a half dozen workmen's organisations in the United Kingdom that paid one single sixpence for the agitation, which lasted for two, three, or four years. Meetings were held throughout the Metropolis, and one notable meeting was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel attended by one or two hundred men purporting to represent organised bodies of workmen in the country. But no man present on that occasion was paid by the organisation which he professed to represent, but by persons interested in raising the price of sugar, by getting the bounties abolished. It was in the interest of that class that the agitation, which lasted for two or three years, was conducted with an amount of perseverance which was the only virtue it possessed. An enormous amount of money was expended by the promoters of the agitation, From first to last the men who attended these gatherings were paid to do so, and their travelling expenses from all parts of the kingdom were also paid. At the end of the meetings they were invited to eat and drink, and especially to drink, the gorging and fuddling which went on at the end of the meetings disgusting clean-handed honest working men who declined to lend any countenance or support to the movement which was organised by the agency to which he had referred. He was quite sure that the hon. Member who had referred to that agitation had no intention of misleading the House, because he himself, like others, had probably been misled by statements which had been repeatedly made in regard to the events which transpired fifteen years ago. A newspaper was started in connection with that movement. It was conducted at a loss from beginning to end and the hon. Member for Leicester knew something of the channels through which the money came, and the means by which it was distributed. The promoters of the movement tried in vain to get a legitimate expression of opinion in favour of their policy from the Trades Union Congress. The Congress, however, not only declined to express an opinion in favour of their particular views, but ordered them to leave and upon their refusing to do so ejected them by force. That was the opinion entertained by the *bonâ fide* working men of the bounty-fed agitators. He hoped that, after this, no further attempts would be made by hon. Members to induce the House or the country to believe that there had been any honest expression of working class opinion in favour of the Bill now before the House. He had risen in order to dispel the illusion which he saw existed in the minds of many hon. Members of the House. He could only say that every vote he had given in the various divisions which had taken place he had given because he was perfectly satisfied in his own mind that the effect of passing the Bill into law would be to make sugar very much dearer and to penalise the industries of the country which had been created and developed by cheap sugar. He believed the masses of the people—the poorer classes, particularly—would suffer and would be compelled to pay a very heavy penalty for the folly of the Government, and on behalf of the workers he represented he desired to register his solemn and final protest against the passing of the Bill.

Mr. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe) said he was sorry to trouble the House on the subject, but he appealed to hon. Members to give him a few moments, on the ground that he had not so far said a single word, although he had sat there through the debates upon the Bill. He desired to register one more protest against the measure, because he felt that the day it passed into law would be an evil one for England. It would be the first time on which our ports would be not partially closed by protective duties, but wholly closed to an article of food, valuable and wholesome, and most necessary to the country. For the first time, he believed, many of our ships, instead of enjoying that freedom of navigation which they had enjoyed with such beneficial effects for over half a century, would be precluded from bringing from certain parts of half the world cargoes of sugar, and that sugar, if brought here, would either have to be destroyed or would have to seek a market elsewhere, to the great loss of the merchants engaged in bringing it to this country. They had heard a great deal of the somewhat new-born enthusiasm of certain Members opposite for free trade, and he appealed to them now to join with him in condemning interference with the natural course of trade. Some interference with trade on the part of foreign countries might be hurtful to this country, but in other cases it was more harmful still to the countries which caused it. There were some forms of protection which contributed greatly to our benefit, and was it to be supposed that we were to single out those particular forms, and out of pure pedantry, attack them to the detriment of our own interests? What was to be said about such a case as that of Spain? Spain could produce in abundance oranges, sugar, and coal, and if she allowed her people to have sugar as cheaply as she could produce it, Spain might take the whole of the marmalade trade from Dundee. Why should Great Britain take steps to bring about such a result? This Bill was the first step in a policy of closing our ports and introducing a system of protection, and for that reason he desired to enter against it the strongest protest in his power.

Mr. PRIESTLEY (Grantham), who spoke amid cries of "Divide," protested against the Bill as an unjustifiable and pernicious form of legislation. Apart from the question of different industries, the measure was certain to have a serious effect on the wellbeing of a large portion of the community, and he desired to know what compensation the people generally were to get for the benefit to be conferred on the sugar growers of the West Indies and the sugar refiners of this country. By passing this Bill the Government were entirely neglecting to recognise the essential importance to Great Britain of free imports and cheap food, of which sugar was one of the most important elements. He had been to the West Indies two or three times, and probably knew as much about the question at issue as the average Member of Parliament. His sympathies had always been with the growers in the difficulties they had had to encounter, and if Parliament was to relieve any of the distressed industries of the Empire, the West Indian sugar industry had as good a claim for assistance as any he knew. He questioned, however, whether this method of relief would be effective. A system by which the growers could have been enabled to develop the scientific production of sugar would have been much more beneficial to the West Indies and far less injurious to the consumer in England. The last had not been heard of this subject. Hon. Members might refuse him a courteous hearing, but they would have to appear before long on the platforms of the country, and then they would be forced by the people to give a little more attention to the matter.

MR. LAWRENCE said that as the hon. Member for Haggerston had impugned the accuracy of his statement that several working men's organisations had passed resolutions in favour of the policy of the Government, he desired to refer the hon. Member to a letter in *The Times* of 2nd April, 1888. That letter was from Mr. Burt, M.P., and Dr. Shipton, and enclosed resolutions passed by a conference of delegates representing 500,000 working men in favour "of freeing British trade from the injurious operations of the foreign bounty system."

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 119; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 238.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (*Midd'x*
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*)
Chamberlain Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Chas. Curtis, (*Antrim S.*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man.*)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robetr Bannatyne
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S. W.*)
Fyler, John Arthur
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, J. ((*Londonderry, S.*)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(*T'r H'mlets*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Goulding, Edwin Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs.*
Groves, James Grimble
Hambro, James Eric
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Law, Andrew Bonar, (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir L. (*Edinburgh, W*)
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (*Bute*)
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone W.*
Smith, James Parker, (*Lanarks*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, E. J. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin, (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Welby Sir C. G. E. (*Notts.*)
Wortley, Rt, Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther

NOES.

Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Elibank, Master of
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffiths, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-

Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kemp, Lt.-Col. George
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfred (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moss, Samuel
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*
Spencer, Rt.Hn.C.R.(*N'thants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Thomas F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
White, Luke, (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, H.(*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read the third time and passed.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.) said that this measure was a hardy annual which might accurately be described as an anachronism. There were two classes of Bills contained in this measure; the first consisted of Bills of undoubted value and the rest were a lot of rubbish which should be cast into the dustbin of the House. When the spirit of inquiry was abroad, and at a time when the grand inquest of the nation was being held, they should try and separate the wheat from the chaff, and only embody in this measure the Acts which the House desired to be made permanent. One of the Acts mentioned in this Bill was the Sunday Closing (Ireland) Act, and everybody in Ireland was in favour of that Act, and he did not see why year after year they should be called upon to renew that Act. Some day the brewers, who were a considerable power in this House, would rush down to move the omission of this Bill from the Schedule. Another Bill in the Schedule was the Peace Preservation Act of 1881, which was known in Ireland as the Arms Act. He thought it was useless to re-enact that measure when its administration in Ireland had become an absolute farce. He presumed that he would not be in order in going into its details, but he might be allowed to say that the complaint made by his hon. friend had its counterpart in every part of Ireland. A licence could only be obtained under this Act with the greatest difficulty, but there was a section of Irishmen who were in the habit of taking French leave in the matter of licences. They got arms when they liked, and no prosecution was instituted. It was twenty-eight years now since Lord Salisbury and Mr. Disraeli promised that this antiquated method of legislation would be abandoned.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is aware that it is not in order to discuss the individual Bills in the Schedule on the Second Reading of the Bill.

MR. MACVEAGH said he only wished to point out that notwithstanding the pledges given twenty-eight years ago they were still, year after year, passing this Bill. The Ballot Act, which was also in the Schedule, was another illustration of the absurdity of this whole process. He would not give much for the chance, when an election took place, of any statesman who would propose the repeal of the Ballot Act. He suggested that the Cabinet ought to appoint a Committee to go into the Schedule and report to the House what Bills they thought ought and what Bills ought not to be continued. This Bill was exactly the same as in 1873, with the exception that the Vaccination Act had been tagged on since. The Expiring Laws Continuance Bill should consist only of those measures on which the House was agreed. Those which were not acceptable to the House should be dropped out altogether. The practice of asking the House year after year to pass a ridiculous measure of this kind was a reflection on their business capacity. He begged to move that the Bill be read this day three months.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.) seconded the motion. He protested against the system of the Government bringing forward this measure mostly at one or two o'clock in the morning. One of the Bills proposed to be continued was the Peace Preservation Act, which was passed twenty-four years ago to meet an emergency which had not existed since. Now that the Coercion Act was repealed he thought the least the Government could do would be to drop the Peace Preservation Act out of the Schedule, and show some consistency in their policy in regard to Irish affairs.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. MacVeagh.*)

Question "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question," put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for this day.

RAILWAYS (ELECTRICAL POWER) BILL.

As amended, Considered.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said that he did not want to oppose the Bill, but it was rather awkward that the House had not got printed copies of it.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said it was quite true that the Bill had not been printed, but he hoped the hon. Member would not oppose it, as it was really only an unimportant drafting Bill.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrewshire, W.) moved as a new Clause "Nothing in this Act shall affect any power which a railway company may have independently of this Act."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 29, after the word 'otherwise,' to insert the words, 'Nothing in this Act shall affect any powers which a railway company may have independent of this Act.'"—(*Sir Charles Renshaw.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said he had been very anxious to promote the passage of this Bill, but he felt that, being forced by the exigencies of the situation to accept all these Amendments, the Government had practically handed everything over to the railway companies. The Bill had been so whittled down that it was hardly worth passing.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR understood that this was more or less an agreed measure. He was very unwilling to drive the House at that time of the morning, but if it could be understood that the Bill would pass at the next sitting, after the rest of the business, he was ready to agree to the adjournment.

MR. DALZIEL asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would undertake that Members should be able to see the Bill before the Third Reading.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, but I cannot promise to take the Third Reading before twelve o'clock.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. CALDWELL said it was absolutely no use inserting these words. It would, in fact, do harm, because it suggested that the Bill in some way interfered with existing powers. That was not the case, and words which were not needed were much better left out. The hon. Member for Renfrewshire ought to be sufficiently satisfied with the way with which the Bill had been cut down in the interests of railway companies without insisting on further Amendments of this kind.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow. [Bill 316.]

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL.

As amended, Considered.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'thereof,' to insert the words 'and all property held in trust therefor.'" —(*Mr. Pretyman.*)

"In page 1, line 23, after the word 'position,' to insert the word 'legally.'"—(*Mr. Hayes Fisher.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES [SALARIES, &c.].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of any Salaries and Expenses which may become payable under any Act of the present Session to transfer to the Board of Agriculture powers and duties relating to the Industry of Fishing, and to amend the Board of Agriculture Act, 1889.—(*Mr. Elliot.*)

Resolution to be reported this day.

Mr. Caldwell.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES (No. 2) BILL.

[Second Reading.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said that while there was a disposition to accept this Bill with gratitude, that gratitude was as modest in its proportions as were the provisions of the Bill. There were many points connected with the rural branches of the subject which required to be dealt with, such as the facilitation of the acquisition of land for houses and the simplification of the procedure for getting houses erected in rural districts, but having made a protest against the homœopathic nature of this dose of social reform, he had no doubt the House would be glad to accept the Bill.

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

MOTOR CARS [EXCISE DUTY].

Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of an Excise Duty on persons employed as drivers of motor-cars of the same amount as is payable on male servants, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to amend The Locomotives on Highways Act, 1896."

Resolution agreed to.

POST OFFICE (CONTRACT FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF MAILS BETWEEN GLASGOW, GREENOCK, AND CAMPBELTOWN).

Resolved, That the Contract, dated 9th day of March 1903, with the Campbeltown and Glasgow Steam Packet Joint Stock Company, Limited, for the conveyance of mails between Glasgow, Greenock, and Campbeltown, printed in Parliamentary Paper No. 132, of session 1903, be approved."—(*Mr. Elliot.*)

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes after Two o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 7th August, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Patent Office (Extension).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill, now Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway Bill. Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Wood Green Urban District Council Bill, Commons Reasons for disagreeing to one of the Lords Amendments considered: The said Amendment not insisted on; and a message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith.

Sugar Convention Bill; Patriotic Fund Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Liverpool University Bill [H.L.]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

Report from the Joint Committee made on the 13th of July last, to be printed. [No. 183.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3052, China (Chefoo); No. 3053, Spain (Barcelona); No. 3054, Japan (North Formosa); No. 3055, Japan (Shimonaseki).

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

St. Helena. (Report for 1902).

CANADA.

Address to His Majesty on Irish affairs from the House of Commons of Canada, and the reply thereto.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Thirty-second Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1902–3.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Annual Report on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in the year 1902–3; with statements respecting the several colleges and institutions aided, the experiments conducted and the expenditure on agricultural instruction by County Councils in 1901–2.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUGAR CONVENTION BILL.

Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Monday next: The Lord President—[*Duke of Devonshire*]. [No. 198.]

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL.

Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Monday next: [*The Earl of Selborne*]. [No. 199.]

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

Second Report of the Select Committee made; to be printed; and to be considered on Tuesday next. [No. 200.]

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, I desire to make a personal explanation with regard to my statement on July 30th in this House during the discussion on the Beckenham Urban District Council Bill.† I am sorry Lord Monkswell is not in his place, but I see Lord Tweedmouth here, and perhaps he will allow me to make the observations chiefly to him. In the discussion on the Beckenham Bill the other day, I said there were many cases in which local authorities construct tramways, with two-thirds consent of the districts through which they pass, into districts of other local authorities. Lord Monkswell controverted that statement; and at the time I was not able to support it by evidence, but I now admit that I made far too wide a statement on that occasion. I am not quite sure whether Lord Monkswell did not even go a little too far himself in saying no such cases had ever arisen, for this reason, that it is almost impossible to tell what cases have and have not arisen. I have consulted the examiners on the subject, and all the evidence they have is that two-thirds of the local authorities through which the tramways run have given their consent; but it may be that, although two-thirds assent, one authority may be invaded against its will. Whether that is so or not, I am extremely anxious that no statement of mine which is inaccurate should remain uncontradicted by myself. I wish to be perfectly frank on the matter. I believe cases have arisen in which companies have invaded the tramway areas of local authorities, and, after all, when a local authority is outside its district I regard it very much in the same position as a trading company. I was anxious to put myself right in this matter, and to state that I did make a far wider statement than was justified by the evidence. At the same time I wish to say this, that I do not consider that any principle is involved in the matter. I also wish to say that even if I had not based my arguments on that point it would not have altered the opinion at which I had arrived with regard to the particular Bill which was then under discussion.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxvi., 826.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH; I beg to acknowledge on behalf of my noble friend Lord Monkswell and myself, the frankness of the statement which has just been made by the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees. After all, it is only what every one of your Lordships would have expected from him. We all look to the noble Earl as the very model of fairness, and I think it is that knowledge that commends him so much to your Lordships. But with regard to what he said, it is a matter of some importance that he acknowledges that he spoke without full information on that point. When I was asked to bring forward this question of the Beckenham tramway I was informed that there was no precedent with regard to the area of the London County Council. I at once told the solicitors to the London County Council, that that was all very well, but that I should like to know what had been the fact in other cases in other parts of the country; and I was then assured that, after full inquiry, they could find no case in which a minor local authority had invaded the territory of a major local authority anywhere in the country, except with the consent, either given or implied, of the major local authority. At any rate, the only case that they could find, about which there was a doubt, was in the neighbourhood of Sunderland, and there, as a matter of fact, some arrangement was arrived at. I am very glad my noble friend has made his statement, because I think it very much strengthens the claim I made, that at any rate the decision of your Lordships' Committee, in respect to the Beckenham tramway, should not be taken as a precedent by future Committees of this or the other House of Parliament.

IRISH LAND BILL.

On the Order of the day for the House being again in Committee being read—

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said before the House goes into Committee on this Bill, I should like to ask the noble Duke the Leader of the House on what day he intends to take the Report stage.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): Of course, it would be convenient if we could take the Report on Monday, but as the Second Reading of the Sugar Convention Bill is fixed for that day probably there will scarcely be time to take the Report stage of this Bill.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: No.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Then we must put it down for Tuesday.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: There is certain to be a considerable debate on the Second Reading of the Sugar Bill, and I am sure noble Lords would not think of taking the Report stage of this Bill after that debate.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Do we understand that we are to take all the stages of the Sugar Bill on Monday?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Yes.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN: When will the Third Reading of the Irish Land Bill be taken?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not think we can finally decide on the date for the future stages of the Bill until we see what is done to-night. I trust that the Committee may be got through to-night.

House again in Committee (according to order).

Clause 39 agreed to.

Clauses 40 and 41 agreed to.

Clause 42.

Verbal Amendment agreed to.

Clause 42, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 43 agreed to.

Clause 44.

LORD CLONBROCK said the object of his Amendment was to facilitate purchase in the case of large farms, where the Estates Commissioners were only empowered to advance a certain proportion of the value. He moved as a preliminary a verbal Amendment in order, after Sub-section 1, which provides "that every advance shall be repaid by means of a purchase annuity calculated at the rate of £3 5s. for every £100 of the advance, and so on in proportion for any less sum," to add "but any advance which shall not exceed three-fourths of the price paid for a holding shall be repaid by means of a purchase annuity calculated at the rate of £3 per cent. on the amount of the advance." There was a precedent for this in Section 7 of the Act of 1891, which enacted that tenant purchasers who paid not less than one-fourth of the purchase money in cash should be liable to a purchase annuity of of only 3⅞ (instead of 4) per cent. This Amendment was in the interests both of the landlords and the tenants. There were a considerable number of farms, the value of which would be outside the limits in the Bill, but which it was very desirable should be treated in the same way as smaller farms. It would be hard that the owners of small acreage farms should be able to purchase, and that the owners of large farms should not. It might be said that this Amendment applied more to the eastern portion of Ireland where the farms were usually large, but it also applied to a smaller extent over the whole of the country.

Amendment moved—

"In page 23, line 29, after the word 'advance' to insert the words, 'save as hereinafter provided.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It is no doubt extremely desirable that facilities should be given for the sale of the larger as well as the smaller holdings, and with that object a provision has been made in the Bill for the extension of the amount which can be advanced on the sale of any particular holding, but I do not think we can ask the Treasury to go further than they have consented to do in this direction. I was not aware of the precedent which the noble Lord quoted as already existing in the Purchase Acts, but I know that in the opinion of the Treasury immense inconvenience would result from having advances under this Act bearing two different rates of interest—one the rate of 3¼ and the other the rate of 3 per cent. In addition to the inconvenience which would result from the existence of these two separate rates at which the annuities would be charged, there is this objection in principle, that the annuity under the proposal of the noble Lord could scarcely be considered to be a terminable one at all. The proposal of the noble Lord would reduce the sinking fund to 5s. per cent., which would have the effect of extending the period of repayment to over a hundred years. Noble Lords must remember that the whole of these financial matters have been the subject of arrangement with the Treasury. It has been throughout the course of these discussions admitted that the Treasury have behaved in an extremely liberal spirit, and I do not think we can fairly ask the Treasury to extend the provisions beyond those to which they have already agreed.

LORD CASTLETOWN said the Amendment was merely for the object of bringing within the purview of this Bill what was actually existing at the present time. The Treasury would not be inconvenienced in any way by the fact that one-fourth of the purchase money was advanced by the tenant purchaser. Under the other proposals of the Bill the whole amount was advanced by the Treasury. He thought it would be one of the most valuable Amendments in many ways. Large numbers of men who had money would be induced, instead of asking for the whole of the sum, to ask for three-fourths, and he did not see how that would inconvenience the Treasury at all.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Inconvenience exists in the circumstance that the annuities will be charged on different advances at different rates. It was said by Lord Clonbrock that that principle already existed. I am told that it does exist nominally in some previous Acts, but it has never been acted upon, and it would be practically introducing for the first time an annuity charge at a different rate on different advances. The subject has been fully examined by the Treasury, and I can hold out no hope whatever that further examination will lead them to a different conclusion.

LORD CASTLETOWN thought the noble Duke had been misinformed when he stated that this principle had not been acted upon. It had been acted upon on several occasions to his knowledge.

LORD CLONBROCK said this was such an important matter that he felt obliged to ask the House to divide upon it.

On Question, their Lordships divided: Contents, 54; Not-Contents, 56.

CONTENTS.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)
Abingdon, E.
Bandon, E.
Belmore, E.
Dartrey, E.
de Montalt, E.
Drogheda, E.
Rosse, E.
Westmeath, E.

Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Powerscourt, V.
Templetown, V.

Annaly, L.
Ardilaun, L.
Barrymore, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton*).
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Castlemaine, L.
Castletown, L.
Clanwilliam, L. (*E Clanwilliam*
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clonbrock, L. [*Teller.*]
Cloncurry, L.
Colchester, L.
Crofton, L.
De Freyne, L.
Deramore, L.
Digby, L.
Dunalley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Grey de Ruthyn, L.
Grinstead, L. (*E. Enniskillen.*)
Harlech, L.
Inchiquin, L.
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.*)
Langford, L.
Leconfield, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Massy, L.
Monck, L. (*V. Monck*).
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Muskerry, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough.*)
Rathdonnell, L.
Rathmore, L.
Robertson, L.
Rossmore, L.
Sherborne, L.
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)[*Teller.*]
Ventry, L.
Worlingham, L. (*E. Gosford.*)

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Marlborough, D.
Northumberland, D.
Wellington, D.
Lansdowne, M.
Ripon, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Camperdown, E.
Carnwath, E.
Crewe E.
Cromer, E.
Denbigh, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuhc and Queensberry*).
Durham, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Morley, E.
Onslow, E.
Selborne, E.
Stamford, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller*].

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Gordon, V. (*E. Aberdeen.*)

Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Botreaux, L. (*E. Loudoun.*)
Burghclere, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Davey, L.

Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
Emly, L.
Erskine, L.
Estcourt, L.
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
Forester, L.
James, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lamington, L.
Lawrence, L.
Ludlow, L.
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Methuen, L.
Montagu of Baaulieu, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rothschild, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Saye and Sele, L.
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Stanmore, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 44, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 45 and 46 agreed to.

Clause 47.

*THE EARL OF WESTMEATH said his Amendment was aimed at making it compulsory on the Land Commission to pay the percentage in aid of sale in the prescribed manner. At present it was left to their discretion, and it would be unfair if a landlord were induced to sell his estate, relying on a percentage being paid, and was then disappointed of his hopes. He did not know whether there was any subtle meaning in the word "may." It was quite possible that the Treasury had repented of the bargain of £12,000,000 which they had proposed to give, and were trying by something like a dodge to get some of it back.

Amendment moved—

"In page 24, line 28, to leave out the word 'may' and to insert the word 'shall.'"—(*The Earl of Westmeath.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I think the noble Earl has moved this Amendment under some misapprehension. The word "may," as I am advised, must be construed as "shall" in all cases which properly come within the section. If the word "shall" was substituted, it would be imperative on the Land Commission to pay the bonus to every owner, though he might have been guilty of fraudulent conduct, or might have obstructed the sale, or otherwise demonstrated that the bonus, in equity, should not be paid to him.

*THE EARL OF WESTMEATH said that the explanation of the noble Duke had removed his apprehension on this point, and he begged to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said that this clause, which dealt with the allocation of the Land Purchase Aid Fund, provided that, for the purpose of aiding the sale of estates, the Land Commission may, out of advances by the National Debt Commissioners from the Land Purchase Aid Fund, pay to the vendor of each estate sold a sum calculated at 12 per cent. on the amount of the purchase-money advanced under the Land Purchase Acts. He moved to leave out the word "advances" and insert "the total of the fund of £12,000,000 appropriated for the purposes of this Act, or so much thereof as may from time to time be advanced." The object of his Amendment was to make sure that the total amount of the bonus, and not only a portion of it, should be received. He had spoken on this subject in the Second Reading debate, and did not think it necessary to go into the matter again at any length. As their Lordships knew, a definite sum of £12,000,000 was appropriated for a definite purpose, as a grant in aid of sales. As was explained during the Second Reading, that £12,000,000 was to be looked upon as an absolute grant to the landlords to enable them to sell. The first essential attribute of a grant was that it should be received by the persons to whom it was granted. If this grant-in-aid was distributed as proposed in the Bill, at the rate of 12 per cent., it was obviously impossible that the whole amount could be required. Twelve per cent. was placed in the other House, obviously under the impression that they would have to satisfy the requirements of £100,000,000, but owing to the fact that a considerable number of estates were in the Land Judge's Court, and received no bonus at all, the sum to be satisfied would be much less than £100,000,000, and therefore if a grant in aid of £12,000,000 was distributed at the rate of 12 per cent. there must remain a considerable surplus over, which would go back into the hands of the Treasury. It must go back into the hands of the Treasury, because it would be obviously impossible to increase the rate of distribution in future. They had heard a great deal about the generosity of the Treasury. He admitted that the Treasury had acted very generously, and had been very wise in doing so. But was the generosity to be real generosity, or to a certain extent sham generosity? Was the bonus to be a real bonus, or to a certain extent a sham bonus?

They were told that the landlords had been very favourably treated by having this grant in aid of £12,000,000 given to them. Well, let them have the £12,000,000 and not only a portion of it. When His Majesty's Government said that they were handing over £12,000,000 he could not believe that they contemplated only in reality handing over £8,000,000 or £10,000,000. If that were the case, it would not be, to use a colloquial expression, "playing the game." If the Amendment was accepted, not only would it do absolute justice to the grantees, the owners of land in Ireland, but it would have a conciliatory effect on the Bill. It would immensely ease the wheels of the machinery and enable it work smoothly. Landlords, unfortunately, had scarcely any representation whatever in the other House of Parliament. It was quite impossible for them to express their views there on the matter, but he sincerely hoped that in their Lordships' House, where the landlords of Ireland were ably represented, they would make their opinions heard. The Amendment did not affect the finance of the Bill in the smallest degree; it did not affect the general policy of the Bill; neither did it affect detrimentally any of its aims or objects. All it did was to make effective a provision in the Bill which, if his Amendment, or something similar to it, was not accepted, would not be effective, but would be to a large extent inoperative. As the Bill stood wners of land could not by any possibility get the £12,000,000 grant in aid, and to that extent not only would injustice be done to them, but the objects of the grant-in-aid would be defeated.

Amendment moved—

"'In page 24, line 29, to leave out the word 'advances,' and to insert the words 'the total of the fund of £12,000,000 appropriated for the purposes of this Act, or so much thereof as may from time to time be advanced.'"—(*The Earl of Dunraven.*)

The Earl of Dunraven.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY) said he had more than once had to make the observation that it was not the duty of their Lordships to insist upon the privileges of the House of Commons. That was a matter entirely for the other House; but, on the other hand, it seemed to him that it was not a very dignified proceeding to make alterations in this House in respect of money or the destination of money which the other House had provided, and with which they had always refused to allow the House of Lords to interfere. An old rule, passed some centuries ago, was to the effect that—

"It is the sole right of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint in such Bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants which must not be changed or altered by the House of Lords."

It seemed to him that the Amendment now before the House, and other Amendments on the Paper, offended in the most direct manner against the privileges of the House of Commons, and he contended that it was undesirable to pass, after solemn deliberation, an Amendment which they knew as a matter of fact the House of Commons would refuse, and had a right to refuse, to accept.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON entirely agreed with what had fallen from the noble and learned Earl. Surely it would be unwise, in regard to a Bill which everyone was anxious should pass, to introduce a clause which would not only be rejected in the other House, but be regarded with disfavour, and would not ease the passage of the other Amendments adopted by their Lordships.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said that while, of course, he would not for a moment pit himself against the noble and learned Earl on a matter of privilege, he must point out that it was absolutely impossible that the Amendment could affect the amount of the grant-in-aid, or the source from which it was derived. It did nothing more than express the opinion of the House of Lords on a pure matter of administrative detail. All he wanted the House to do was to say that if the grant-in-aid was distributed in the manner suggested, it would not carry out its objects. Surely their Lordships' House was not precluded from expressing an opinion of that sort.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that the noble Lord had put himself out of Court by his own expression. According to the noble Lord's statement the £12,000,000 could not, as the Bill stood, be distributed in the way he wished it to be distributed; and by his Amendment, according to his own statement he would effect such an alteration as would enable it to be distributed in a manner in which it could not be distributed now. Therefore, the Amendment offended in the most direct manner against the rule of privilege.

On Question, That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause their Lordships divided:—Contents, 68 Not-Contents, 51.

CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Marlborough, D.
Northumberland, D.
Wellington, D.

Lansdowne, M.
Ripon, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Belmore, E.
Camperdown, E.
Carnwath, E.
Crewe, E.
Cromer, E.
Denbigh, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Durham, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Lytton, E.
Morley, E.
Onslow, E.
Powis, E.
Selborne, E.
Stamford, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Gordon, V. (*East Aberdeen.*)
Powerscourt, V.

Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Bortreaux, L. (*E Loudoun.*)
Boyle, L. (*East Cork & Orrery.*)
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Burghclere, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Cloncurry, L.
Davey, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Erskine, L.
Estcourt, L.
Forester, L.
James, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kilmaine, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kentore.*)
Lamington, L.
Lawrence, L.
Ludlow, L.
Methuen, L.
Monk Bretton, L.
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Mount Stephen. L.
Muncaster, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rosmead, L.
Rothschild, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Saye and Sele, L.
Sherborne, L.
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Tweedmouth, L.
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)

Abingdon, E.
Bandon, E.
Dartrey, E.
de Montalt, E.
Drogheda, E.
Rosse, E.
Westmeath, E.

Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Templetown, V.

Annally, L.
Ardilaun, L.
Barrymore, L.
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Castlemain, L.
Castletown, L.
Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*)
Clanwilliam,L.(*E.Clanwilliam*
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clonbrock, L.
Colchester, L.
Crofton, L.
De Freyne, L.
Deramore, L.
Digby, L.
Dunalley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Emly, L.
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
Grey de Ruthyn, L.
Grinstead, L. (*E. Enniskillen*
Harlech, L.
Inchiquin, L.
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.*) [*Teller.*]
Langford, L.
Leconfield, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Massy, L.
Monck, L. (*V. Monck.*)
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Muskerry, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough.*)
Rathdonnell, L.
Rathmore, L.
Rossmore, L.
Somerhill, L. (*M. Clanricarde*)
Stanmore, L.
Sudley, L.(*E.Arran.*) [*Teller.*]
Ventry, L.
Worlingham, L. (*E. Gosford.*)

Lord MACNAGHTEN moved a series of Amendments with the object of providing that in the case of a settled estate the bonus should not go to the vendor, but should, subject to the payment thereout of such costs, charges, and expenses as the Land Commission should allow, be added to and form part of the purchase money.

The Amendments involved a grave and important principle. He was quite convinced that the intentions of the Government were excellent and admirable, but he thought they had not sufficiently considered where those intentions might lead them. Indeed, he should almost say that the authors of this provision hardly understood its effect. The Amendments did not affect the position of those who were absolute owners at all. He put them out of the way. The Amendments only dealt with limited owners, where an estate was settled and a limited owner had certain powers which properly belonged to a full owner—powers of sale, but not powers of receiving the money; and the object of the Amendments was to make sure that when the estate was sold the purchase money—for this was part and parcel of the consideration for which the owner of the estate parted with it—should be secured to all the persons who were entitled under the settlement. The clause as he proposed to amend it would read—

> "For the purposes of aiding the sale of estates under this Act, the Land Commission may, in the prescribed manner and at the prescribed time, out of advances by the National Debt Commissioners from the said Fund, in the case of each estate sold contribute a sum calculated at the rate of 12 per cent. on the amount of the purchase money advanced under the Land Purchase Acts, and such contribution shall, subject to the payment thereout of such costs, charges, and expenses as the Land Commission shall allow, be added to and form part of the purchase money."

There were two questions, and two questions only, to which he need direct their attention. The first was, the position of the persons to whom the offer of the bonus was made; and, secondly, the object of the offer. With regard to the position of the parties to whom the offer was made, he could not do better than quote to their Lordships a statement that was to be found in the Settled Land Act of 1882, under which these purchases and sales were made. The clause, he believed, was settled by the great statesman and lawyer who prepared that Act, Lord Cairns, and certainly nothing could be clearer than what it said. It is there stated that a tenant for life should, in exercising any power under this Act, have regard to the interests of all parties entitled under the settlement, and should, in relation to the exercise thereof by him, be deemed to be in the position, with the duties and liabilities, of trustee for those parties. The tenant for life selling under this Bill was therefore as much a trustee as if he had been regularly appointed by the most solemn instrument, sealed and signed. Then what was the order made for? It was made to facilitate sales; it was made in order to induce the tenant for life to be less careful and less vigilant in protecting the interests of those in remainder than he would otherwise be. It was made to him in order that he might be content to accept a price which, but for the offer of this bonus, he would not have accepted. Was that right? He thought that it was very wrong of their Lordships' House to put any man who was really a trustee in a position in which his interests might conflict with his duty. If the provision stood as it was in the Bill, his own interests would conflict with his duty, and in many cases he would have regard for his own interests rather than his duty. He could not think it right that the House should pass a measure with such a clause as that. The noble Duke in charge of the Bill seemed to think that as the measure stood, the bonus would necessarily be devoted to the payment of the costs and expenses of the transaction. That was a complete mistake. Except by the favour, and grace, and goodwill of the tenant for life, who received the bonus, not one single penny of it would go towards the expenses of the sale. It was already provided under the Settled Land Act that one of the purposes to which capital money provided under the Act might be devoted was to costs and expenses incidental to the sale. Therefore the costs would unquestionably come out of the residuum of the purchase money, and the bonus would be free from this charge. There was a sub-clause in Clause 47, which somewhat counteracted the evil effect of the offer, and which enacted that—

> "Provided that where an estate is so incumbered that the vendor is not entitled to receive for his own use, any part of the rents or profits thereof, the percentage shall be added to the purchase money, and shall not be paid to the vendor."

A more illusory provision he never saw in any Act of Parliament. Was it possible that such a case could occur? Take the case of a tenant for life who had mortgaged up to the hilt. He still had power to sell, however much he was incumbered. Would not the mortgagees in such a case go to him and say: "If you sell in the condition you are, this bonus will go into settlement, and neither you nor we will receive a penny of it; but we will, out of the rents, either reduce the interest or give you £10 or £20 a year till the sale is effected, when we will divide the spoil." He begged to move his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 24, line 30, to leave out the words 'pay to the vendor,' and insert the words, 'in the case.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said he hoped their Lordships would not accept the Amendment. Since the Bill was introduced in the other House it had been discussed and considered always on the supposition that the bonus was to be the personal property of the selling landlord; and it was not fair to the great bulk of the landlords of Ireland who had been considering this measure from that point of view, at this stage to turn round and alter completely the whole of the provisions of the Bill as they would affect the landlord. The class of landlords they ought to have most in mind were the poorer landlords, who constituted the great majority. It was unnecessary for him to point out the enormous benefit that a small sum of ready money would be to those men. It was the one thing in all probability that would not only induce them to sell, but enable them to sell—the one thing that would enable them to adapt themselves to their new circumstances and environment. They would be able, perhaps, to stock their demesnes out of the money, to invest a little of it in safe securities; or they might start a younger son in life, and do a thousand things to improve their material position. The Amendment was nothing short of a wrecking Amendment, and if their Lordships passed it they would preclude the possibility of the Bill working in the way they all desired that it should work.

LORD CASTLETOWN associated himself with the observations of Lord Dunraven. The Bill was brought in with the object of assisting the poorer landlords who were absolutely unable to sell, because there would be nothing left to them. He knew many poor men who were counting on this bonus to enable them to emain in the country. They hoped that the demesnes would pass to them when the estates were sold, and they trusted that this bonus would assist them in keeping their families within their own demesnes. He could imagine no Amendment more dangerous than this one. The noble and learned Lord had brought it forward from the legal point of view; he was convinced he had not thought out the social, and, possibly, the human aspect of it. The Amendment would be a great hardship to the poorer landlords who were looking forward to the bonus as their only solatium and their only hope, and he trusted that it would not be received with any favour by the House.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE) desired, on behalf of the Government, to express concurrence in what had fallen from the two noble Lords who last addressed the House. The Government must resist the Amendment in any case. They objected to it on the ground on which the noble and learned Earl the Lord Chancellor had already asked their Lordships to reject another Amendment—namely, on the ground that it was an encroachment upon the privileges of the House of Commons. The Resolution which the noble and learned Earl the Lord Chancellor had read to their Lordships was to the effect that—

"It is the sole right of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint in such Bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants."

It seemed to him obvious that the Amendment was distinctly in the direction of a qualification and modification of the grant which could be made under this section. But he did not wish to rest his case upon the technical ground, for it was, of course, perfectly open to their Lordships to make an Amendment of this kind just as it was open to the House of Commons to refuse to agree to it. As to the bonus, he was quite ready, with great submission, to take his law from the noble and learned Lord who had moved the Amendment, and to admit the force of his contention that in an ordinary case, where the owner of a settled estate received any money as part of the consideration for parting with the estate, that money ought *primâ facie* to go to the estate and not into the owner's pocket. But this Bill was not an ordinary Bill, nor was the case with which the clause dealt an ordinary case. The object of the clause was to extricate Irish landlords and tenants from the almost intolerable position in which they had been placed by the legislation of Parliament. They were so closely tied up that unless someone intervened to cut the knot their position must be regarded as inextricable and hopeless. The intervention which took place under the Bill was of a financial character. The British taxpayer was willing to come to the rescue, and did so at one point by offering an inducement to the tenant to buy, and at another by offering an inducement to the landlord to sell; the framers of the Bill were convinced that in many cases the landlords would not sell unless they were offered some personal inducement of the kind provided in this clause, over and above the purchase money within the zones. The noble and learned Lord had suggested to their Lordships that this arrangement involved a fraud on the remainder-men.

Lord MACNAGHTEN said he did not use the word "fraud" nor any word synonymous to it.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE did not think he would be wrong when he stated that the noble and learned Lord contended that the arrangement was grossly unfair to the remainder-man.

Lord MACNAGHTEN: That is so.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE said he was quite willing to accept that. But where did the unfairness to the remainder-men come in? If the estate were sold within the zones, it could be sold at a price which might be described as a reasonable price, and which would be considerably in excess of the price at which Irish land had constantly been selling of late. In that case he did not believe the remainder-man was prejudiced. He believed, on the contrary, that the transaction would be found greatly to his advantage. If, on the other hand, the sale took place outside the limits of the zones, then, as their Lordships knew, it was expressly laid down in the Bill that the Land Commissioners were to satisfy themselves that the interest of the remainder-man did not suffer. Therefore, they were justified in contending that this bonus should not be regarded as part and parcel of the purchase money, but as something altogether apart from and outside the purchase money, properly so speaking, provided under the Bill; and it was their belief that unless the bonus were given to the vendor in such a way that he would be free to dispose of it, it would not induce him to part with his estate. As Lord Dunraven had pointed out, in many cases it was of vital importance that the landlord who sold under the Bill should be placed in possession of a sum of money such as the bonus represented. He required it for a number of purposes. It was quite true that the Bill contained provisions for covering what might, strictly speaking, be called the costs of the sale; but in all these cases the vendor obviously would have to face a number of other out-of-pocket expenses. He might have an overdraft at his bankers, or he might have to spend money in winding up the affairs of the estate with which he was going to part. During the interval which passed before the sale was actually completed he might have to pay interest on mortgages though he had ceased to receive rents from his tenants; or, again, he might desire to do something to provide for the employees on the estate from which he was about to be separated. For all these purposes a certain sum would be required by the landlord, and it did seem to him, as a matter of practical expediency, that their Lordships would be ill-advised to reject the proposal contained in the clause. The Government believed that it was essential that the bonus should not be merged in the estate of the vendor, but should go to the person in possession—namely, to the person who could sell if he chose, but who, if the inducements offered were not sufficient, was in a position to put a stop altogether to the whole proceedings.

Lord ROBERTSON said that the noble Marquess had made it perfectly plain that this money was to be given by the State to induce persons to sell who would not otherwise be inclined to sell; and when the person so induced was a trustee, it was evident that the transaction acquired a somewhat sinister character. The State was coming forward and asking a trustee to exercise the power to sell with which they had invested him, not in order that he should do justice to those for whom he was trustee, but in order that he might reflect on the admirable little essay which the noble Marquess had given on the uses of money in various emergencies of life. This was not a question of law at all, it was one of good sense and morals. The landlord was given a power to sell which he would not otherwise have, and he was bound to exercise it on behalf of all concerned. Let them suppose that the price offered him was one which he would not accept were it not for this inducement or *douceur*. Let them suppose that the true value of the estate was £50,000 and he was offered £40,000. He would on reflection see that if he stood out for £50,000 he would have only a life interest in it, but if he took the smaller figure he would get solid cash. His objection to this proceeding was that it was a bribe. That was the plain English of it. The State had come to the conclusion that some landlords in Ireland would sell their property and defeat the rights of their remainder-men if this sum was placed at their disposal. He protested against that as being a gross injustice to the remainder-men. He thought also it was a gross injustice to the landlord class, because the same consideration which would lead a tenant for life to betray the remainder-man would also lead him to lower the market for his neighbours and produce the impression that land in Ireland was less valuable than it really was. The result would be that his neighbour, who, he hoped, was an honest man, would find there was no market for him at the true value. He declined to use his vote in that House in order to pass a measure which could not stand on an honest footing. The speech of the Foreign Secretary, one of the most distinguished and honoured members of the Administration, was a frank avowal of the true nature of these proceedings. He could not bring himself to think it could be sound politics to foist a measure on the landlords of Ireland which could only go through by this medium, and he declined to soil his fingers with any such transaction.

On Question, that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 96; Not-Contents, 28.

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THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE stated that the words in line 30 "pay to the vendor" were not sufficiently explicit in the case of an estate sold by the Land Judge. He therefore moved the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment moved—

"In page 24, line 36, after the word 'thereof' to insert the words 'or where the percentage is payable in respect of an estate sold by the Land Judge.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD DUNBOYNE moved an Amendment dealing with the 4th sub-section. This sub-section provided for the sale of an estate without the consent of the owner as to price or of an estate sold by a mortgagee in possession. He said that the sub-section would work very serious injury to many estates. When estates were brought into the Court of Chancery for purposes of administration they were usually dealt with by an order of reference to the Land Judge, who was also a Receiver Judge. This order requested him to appoint a Receiver (under his special Receiver Judge jurisdiction), and thenceforth the management of the estate and the collection of rents was carried out by a Receiver, who acted under the Land Judge, who, in his capacity as Receiver Judge, examined his accounts, and gave directions as to all matters touching the ordinary management of the estate. If in the course of the administration suit in the Court of Chancery a sale of the estate should become necessary, the sale was generally entrusted by the Court of Chancery to the Land Judge, the machinery in his Court being more convenient for the purpose of collecting rents and selling land than the machinery of the Court of Chancery. Very often, also, the estates of minors were similarly dealt with. Also, many solvent estates were brought into the Land Court for sale, and when once any such last-mentioned estate had come under the jurisdiction of the Land Judge, there was great difficulty and expense in removing it therefrom. In all these cases it would be manifestly unfair that, in cases of a sale being had under this Bill, the bonus should be lost. It seemed very hard that where an estate was brought into the Court for purely administrative purposes, the owner of which might be absolutely solvent, it should be debarred from the benefit of this bonus. The sub-section, as he proposed to amend it, would read—

"This section shall not apply to any estate sold by a mortgagee in possession."

Amendment moved—

"In page 25, line 8, to leave out from the word 'by' to the word 'a' in line 12."—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

LORD CASTLETOWN suggested that His Majesty's Government should either redraft the clause or accept the Amendment leaving in the words "by a mortgagee in possession," which were sufficient to cover the case. The words which provided that no bonus should accrue to landlords who sold compulsorily under the Land Judge's Court should be omitted. If the Amendment were accepted it would be received with approbation.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE) said that an Amendment standing in the name of the noble Duke in charge of the Bill, which come would later, largely met the objection of the noble Lord who moved this

Amendment. The sub-section at present read—

> "This section shall not apply to any estate sold by the Land Judge where either a Receiver has been appointed over the estate, or the estate is so circumstanced that it would, independently of the Act of 1896, be sold without the consent of the owner as to price or to any estate sold by a mortgagee in possession."

The Amendment standing in the name of the noble Duke was to leave out the words "either a receiver has been appointed over the estate or.' Those were the words which led to the difficulty. An estate might innocently be under a receiver.

LORD DUNBOYNE said he would be prepared to withdraw his Amendment in favour of the Amendment of the noble Duke.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 25, line 9, to leave out the words 'either a receiver has been appointed over the estate or.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 25, line 11, after the word 'price' to insert the words 'or to an estate so circumstanced in respect of which an absolute order for sale by the Land Judge was in force at the date of the passing of this Act.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

LORD CASTLETOWN asked the noble Duke not to press this Amendment, because it brought this clause back to the condition in which it stood before the words "either a receiver has been appointed over the estate or" were omitted.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: If the noble Lord will agree to this Amendment being inserted now, we will see if there is anything which conflicts with the previous Amendment before the Report stage.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said the Amendment seemed to go a great deal further than the noble Duke intended. The whole of the sub-section was meant to apply to insolvent estates, but, according to this Amendment, if an absolute order had ever been made, however far back, the taint of that order remained on the estate for ever.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said that an estate which was in the Court, being an insolvent estate, might be pulled round under the management of the Court and taken out of the Court; but, as the clause was originally drafted, though that estate were taken out of the Court, it would be debarred from the bonus when sold. He was no lawyer, but it looked to him as if the Amendment just moved by the noble Duke met that point.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I need hardly say that I am no lawyer either, but I am advised that the only effect of the Amendment would be to prevent insolvent estates from being taken out of the Court for the purpose of getting the bonus.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that, though he understood His Majesty's Government were unable to accept his next Amendment, they were prepared to look into the matter later on, when he dared say they would find an amending Bill of some type or other necessary in order to deal with points that had been left out in this Bill. There was little or no opposition to the proposal contained in his Amendment on the part of the Irish Members. The object of the new sub-section was to enable a landlord who chose to sell under Section 36 of the Act of 1896 to have the bonus extended to him as if such sale had taken place under this Act.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 25, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(5) An advance may be made under this Act in respect of the sale of any holding under the provision of Section 36 of the Act of 1896, and the same percentage shall be payable in respect of the said advance, as if such sale was a sale under this Act.'"—(*Lord Castletown*).

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he had always entertained a very favourable opinion with regard to Clause 36 of the Act of 1896, but whether it could be made the subject-matter on which to attach a bonus was a point in which the Treasury must have a voice, and on which he could not express an opinion. But he understood that the noble Lord had been assured that it could not be dealt with in this Bill.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 47, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 48 agreed to.

Clause 49.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said that, although he must acknowledge that the Government had made a very graceful concession to all who had to work under this Bill, they should not forget that they were dealing with Ireland, and that the giving of a certain amount afforded an opportunity for asking for a little more. Under the Acts mentioned in his Amendment a duty (ranging from 2s. 6d. to 10s. per cent.) on the purchase money was levied on all estates sold through the Land Judges' Court. The object of the Amendment was to remit that duty if the estate was being sold under the Land Purchase Acts, so as to lighten the cost of such sales. When those Acts were passed it was never contemplated that there would be anything like the wholesale sale of land in Ireland that there would be under this Bill, and it would be a graceful concession on the part of His Majesty's Government if they could see their way to accept the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 25, at the end of the clause, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) The provisions of this section shall apply to all sales under the Land Purchase Acts in the Land Judges' Court, and in these cases no duty shall be payable under Section 88 of the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, or under Sections 1 and 2 of the Landed Estates (Ireland) Act (1858) Amendment Act, 1861, or under Section 4 and the schedule of the Landed Estates Court Act, 1866.' "—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I think it is scarcely worth while discussing this Amendment, because it is one which is more clearly than any of the others on which we have been engaged, absolutely out of the competence of this House to legislate upon. It is an Amendment to amend the Stamp Act, which I do not think any noble Lord can say is within the competence of this House.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he only brought it forward because, from the small experience he had had of their Lordships' House, he had found that, whenever the Government wished to break through the privilege of the other House, the other House did not object very much. He thought that perhaps in this case they might have seen their way to do so.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee withdrawn.

Clause 49 agreed to.

Clause 50.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that Clause 50 provided enlargement of the powers of trustees in the investment of the purchase money for estates sold, and the object of his Amendment was to widen these powers. To his mind, this was one of the most important clauses that had been dealt with during the passage of the Bill through Committee. It was absolutely non-contentious. The securities included in the Amendment had been carefully considered by financial experts. In the Act of 1896 there was a provision for wider powers of investment, and, after a good deal of discussion on the subject, clauses were moved which enabled an owner, where he had sold without the consent of the trustee, to invest the money he received on a wider scale of investments. The clause was very carefully drafted, and was endorsed and approved by Mr. Balfour and the late Lord Herschell. Unluckily, however, when the clause came to be tested, as it was in a certain case, the Master of the Rolls came to the conclusion that whatever might have been the intention of the Government and the framers of the clause, it did not carry out that intention, and he made a ruling on the subject which had rendered the section inoperative. In the Bill the powers of trustees had again been widened. They now had, he thought, a perfectly clear announcement that trustees could do certain things, but the wider powers of investment did not go far enough. He was not asking for anything unreasonable. He quite recognised that the remainder-men must be protected. He only asked that the powers of investment should be widened. His Amendment would give a certain fillip to sales under the Bill. He had heard from quite fifty or sixty landlords that if the powers of investment were widened they would sell, but that they could not sell otherwise. Sub-section (*f*) of his Amendment contained the provision that investments might be made in debentures or fully-paid shares or stocks of any railway or commercial or industrial company in the United Kingdom, provided that the sufficiency of such investment to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust, should be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustee under this Act. He had left the matter under the public trustee, who was put in specially for that purpose.

Amendment moved—

"In page 25, line 32, after the word 'in' to insert the words '(*a*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon rates or taxes levied under the authority of any Act of Parliament or Provisional Order by any municipal corporation or other local authority in the United Kingdom which shall be authorised to borrow on such security; (*b*) Ground rents arising out of hereditaments in the United Kingdom and not exceeding in amount one-fourth part of the annual value at a rack rent of the premises out of which such ground rents issue; (*c*) Debentures or mortgages of railway companies in the United Kingdom incorporated by Act of Parliament; (*d*) Stocks or shares of any tramway or light railway interest upon which is guaranteed from or charged upon rates under the Tramways (Ireland) Acts; (*e*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon any investments in which trustees are authorised by this or any other Act to invest trust funds; (*f*) Debentures or fully paid shares or stocks of any railway or commercial or industrial company in the United Kingdom, provided that the sufficiency of such investment to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust shall be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustee under this Act; or.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN supported the Amendment. There was a great necessity, if they were to induce Irish landlords to sell, to widen the area of investment, but he suggested to the noble Lord who moved the Amendment that it would be wise to have some guarantee in the clause that the companies in which money was invested should only be companies the stability and value of whose stock had been approved.

*THE EARL OF BELMORE called attention to Sub-section (*c*) of the Amendment, and stated that there was no provision that the railway companies in whose debentures or mortgages money might be invested were paying dividends or not. Was it intended that the proviso in paragraph (*f*), to the effect that "the sufficiency of such investment to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust should be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustee under this Act," was to govern the other paragraphs of the Amendment?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND expressed his sympathy with the ideas underlying the Amendment, but he recognised the necessity for prudence and caution. The clause as it stood showed an anxiety to approve of investments which were not permitted by the present stringent rules. The objection which had been raised by Lord Belmore was a very reasonable one. One of the heads of investments in the Amendment was "debentures or mortgages of railway companies in the United Kingdom, incorporated by Act of Parliament." Of course, some debentures and mortgages of railway companies were extremely gilt edged, whilst others were worthless; and without some qualification they could hardly sanction investment to be made in debentures or mortgages of any railway company in the United Kingdom. The proviso that the sufficiency of such investment to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust should be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustee under this Act was a very important one, but it appeared to be confined to Sub-section (*f*) of the Amendment.

*LORD CASTLETOWN stated that it was his intention that the proviso in Sub-section (*f*) should govern the other paragraphs of his Amendment.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he was afraid the Amendment as at present worded did not suggest that.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I believe that the clause as in the Bill was drafted to that form with the concurrence of the noble Earl the Lord Chancellor of England, who is not in the House at this moment. I should be willing to accept the Amendment on the understanding that, if it appears to be open to objection by that high legal authority, it should be subject to reconsideration on Report, or possibly it would be better if the noble Lord postponed the Amendment till the Report stage, and I will see the Lord Chancellor in the meantime.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON called attention to the fact that the Lord Chancellor of England had just entered the House.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said he regretted he had not heard this discussion that had taken place upon the Amendment. So far as he was concerned, he must protest very strongly against the further enlargement of the power of investment by trustees without very careful consideration. They had had no opportunity of considering the value of the investments suggested by the noble Lord, whereas every enlargement of the power of investment was carried out with great care. He could not encourage the noble Lord with the idea that in the very short interval between the Committee and the Report stage of this Bill he could assent to the proposed enlargement.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

LORD DUNBOYNE moved an Amendment, which, he said, only sought to extend to trustees in Ireland a protection already enjoyed by trustees in England. This was especially desirable in order to expedite sales under this Bill, because in many cases trustees in Ireland had committed a technical breach of trust, by lending trust moneys on second charges on land, when the security seemed so ample that they would willingly have lent their own money upon it. The operations of the rent-fixing Act had immensely reduced this security in many cases, and the mortgage, or portion of it, was very often now in danger, and if a further reduction in the security should take place under the present Bill, many trustees would find themselves in a serious position unless afforded a protection similar to that now enjoyed by trustees in England.

Amendment moved—

"In page 26, after Sub-section 3 to insert the following new Sub-section:—'(4) In the case of all proceedings in relation to any lands sold in the High Court or under the Land Purchase Acts, or any charges thereon, or any moneys realised thereby, if it appears to the Court that a trustee is or may be personally liable for any breach of trust, whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the passing of this Act, but has acted honestly and reasonably and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust, and for omitting to obtain the directions of the Court in the matter in which he committed such breach, then the Court may relieve the trustee, either wholly or partly, from personal liability for the same.'"—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am advised that the law relating to trustees is exactly the same in England and in Ireland, and that this proposal would be entirely and absolutely outside the scope of this Bill. It would, in our opinion, be improper to attempt to alter the law in the case of proceedings under the Land Purchase Acts in Ireland, but it would be still more improper to attempt to alter it in the way proposed in this clause.

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 49; Not-Contents, 66.

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Dunboyne, L. [*Teller.*]
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
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Inchiquin, L.
Kilmaine, L.
Langford, L.
Leconfield, L.
Massy, L.
Monck, L. (*V. Monck.*)
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Muncaster, L.
Muskerry, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough.*)
Rathdonnell, L.
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Portland, D.
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Ailesbury, M.
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Addington, L.
Allerton, L.
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Balfour, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Burghclere, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Clanwilliam, L(*E. Clanwilliam*
Davey, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Emly, L.
Erskine, L.
Estcourt, L.
Forester, L.
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.*)
Kenyon, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Methuen, L.
Monk Bretton, L.
Mount Stephen, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rosmead, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Somerhill, L. (*M. Clanricarde.*)
Stalbridge, L.
Stanmore, L.
Suffield, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.

Clause 50 agreed to.

Clause 51.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN said the object of the Amendments, six in number, standing in his name, was the same in each case. It was simply to give jurisdiction to the Land Judge to act in a similar manner to that which the Land Commission might adopt. Noble Lords from Ireland attached great importance to this Amendment with a view to the economical working of the Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 26, line 36, after the word 'by' to insert the words 'the Land Judge or.'"—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN expressed the hope that the Government would accept the Amendments, which would greatly lessen the expense under the Bill.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The Government can assent to these Amendments in substance, but it ought to be done in a different way. I propose to do it by an Amendment on the next page. The Amendment I am prepared to move is—

"In page 27, line 11, after the word 'require,' to insert the following new sub-section:—'The powers conferred on the Land Commission by the foregoing provisions of this section may be exercised by the Land Judge in any case where the purchase money of land sold under the Land Purchase Acts is, or has been, distributed by him, and those provisions shall apply accordingly, with the substitution of the Land Judge for the Land Commission.'"

I also propose to move in line 12 the insertion, after the word "by" of the words "the Land Judge and" so that the sub-section will then read—

"Rules may be made by the Land Judge and the Land Commission with the approval of the Lord Lieutenant for the purpose of carrying this section into effect, and for regulating the exercise of the powers and duties of the public trustee, and in particular may provide that the trustee shall, on the request of any person proposing to sell an estate, give an estimate of the probable financial effect of such sale."

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN expressed his willingness to accept the noble Duke's Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 11, after the word 'require' to insert the following new sub-section: 'The powers conferred on the Land Commission by the foregoing provisions of this section may be exercised by the Land Judge in any case where the purchase money of land sold under the Land Purchase Acts is, or has been, distributed by him, and those provisions shall apply accordingly, with the substitution of the Land Judge for the Land Commission.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 12, after the word 'by' to insert the words 'the Land Judge and.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN (on behalf of Lord Castletown) moved to leave out "the Land Commission" and to insert "a majority of the Land Commissioners, which majority shall include the Judicial Commissioner." The object of his Amendment was to place the Judicial Commissioner on an equality with the Land Commissioners. On points of law it was very often difficult for the Land Commissioners to come to a proper decision without the assistance of the Judicial Commissioner.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 12, to leave out the words 'the Land Commission,' and insert the words 'a majority of the Land Commissioners, which majority shall include the Judicial Commissioner.'"—(*The Duke of Abercorn.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The Land Judge has been added to the rule making authority, and therefore the Amendment is unnecessary.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 51, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 52.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The Amendments standing in my name, taken together, propose to make this clause similar to Clause 2, which provides for advances in the case of the sale of parcels.

Amendments moved—

"In page 27, line 28, to leave out from the word 'that' to the words 'in the' in line 32; in line 34, after the word 'county' to insert the words 'the said limitation may, subject to the other limitations in the Land Purchase Acts, be exceeded where the Land Commission consider that a larger advance may be sanctioned to any purchaser without prejudice to the wants and circumstances of other persons residing in the neighbourhood'; and in page 28, lines 3 and 4, to leave out the words 'under the circumstances aforesaid,' and insert the words 'where the Land Commission consider it expedient under the circumstances mentioned in the preceding sub-section.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN then moved the omission of Clause 52. He said that the provisions of Clause 52 were in many ways objectionable, and in some points contrary to the policy of the Bill, which aimed at creating peasant proprietors. By Sub-clause 1 an arbitrary date was fixed for no apparent reason—from which date no tenancy could be created which would entitle its holder to the full benefits of this Bill, except in the case of evicted tenants, or tenancies created by the Congested Districts Board. There was nothing to show why these two classes of tenants should be favoured, whilst other deserving tenants were to be penalised, because their tenancies were not three years old. Besides, this sub-clause would deter a landlord who might wish to hand over to good and deserving tenants a portion of the demesne or other lands in his hands. The provisions of Sub-clause 2 would fetter the hands of the Land Judge, and prevent a heavily-embarrassed owner, who had, for the benefit of his creditors, been made a tenant of his demesne under the powers of any Court, from buying the same by means of the beneficial aid given to other tenants. An owner so made tenant of his own demesne by any Court had been paying rent, therefore, like any other tenant, should have like benefits under this Bill. The proposed limit of £2,000 was too small to enable a vendor to re-buy his demesne in many cases; and as he would, in order to retain his old demesne, be in all probability willing to give a higher price than anyone else would give, his creditors would suffer if he were deprived of the power of so doing. Subclause 3 would be inoperative if the rest of the clause were left out, and consequently, of course, it should be left out also. There was a great amount of feeling against the clause, and he hoped His Majesty's Government would permit it to be omitted.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, to leave out Clause 52."—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

The Marquess of LANSDOWNE said that the clause was entirely in accordance with the general purpose of the Bill, one of the objects of which was to improve existing holdings where they were now of an uneconomic character. The opportunities of adding to and improving small and badly situated holdings were not frequent, and one of the most usual forms in which such an opportunity might present itself was when the selling landowner was in possession of a large quantity of untenanted and available land which could be turned to account for this purpose. It was apprehended that in some cases the owner of property of this description might be induced to let such unoccupied land in large blocks to comparatively wealthy and prosperous tenants, who would hire it with the idea that they would eventually be able to buy it under the Act. In this way considerable tracts of land at the moment unoccupied might cease to be available for the purpose of improving existing holdings. For those reasons the Government proposed to deny to newly-created holdings the same facilities that were offered to holdings which had been in existence for a long time. Instead of the limit allowed in the case of ordinary large holdings, it was proposed that within the area of a congested district the limit should be £500, and that discretion should be given to the Land Commission where the holding was not situated in a congested district. The Government regarded the clause as one of considerable importance.

Lord CLONBROCK said it might happen that a landlord holding a certain portion of his land in his own hands might desire to divide it amongst smaller holders, in order to let them become tenants, and eventually purchase. He would be precluded from doing so by this clause.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE said that if the landlord was willing to sell his land in small parcels, the question of the money limit would not arise. The object of the clause, he took it, was only to prevent the letting of unoccupied land in large blocks.

On Question, that Clause 52, as amended, stand part of the Bill, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 54; Not-Contents, 50.

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Ripon, M.

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Camperdown, E.
Crewe, E.
Cromer, E.
Denbigh, E.
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Hardwicke, E.

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Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Powerscourt, V.

Allerton, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Davey, L.
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Erskine, L.

Estcourt, L.
Forester, L.
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Kenyon, L.
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Lawrence, L.
Methuen, L.
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
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Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Templetown, V. [*Teller.*]

Ardilaun, L.
Barrymore, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Castlemain, L.
Castletown, L.
Clanwilliam, L(*E. Clanwilliam*
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clonbrock, L.
Cloncurry, L.
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Grey de Ruthyn, S.
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Inchiquin, L.
Kilmaine, L.
Langford, L.
Leconfield, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Massy, L.
Monck, L. (*V. Monck.*)
Muskerry, L.
O'Neill, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Rathdonnell, L.
Rathmore, L.
Rosmead, L.
Rossmore, L.
Somerhill, L. (*M. Clanricarde.*)
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran*) [*Teller.*]
Ventry, L.
Worlingham, L. (*E. Gosford.*)

Clause 52, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 53.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE moved an Amendment in Sub-section (*c*) of Clause 53. This sub-section read as follows—

"(*c*) Where on the decease of the proprietor the holding would, by reason of any devise, bequest, intestacy, or otherwise, become subdivided or vested in more than one person, the Land Commission may require the holding to be sold within twelve months after the death of the proprietor to some one person, and if default is made in so selling the holding, the Land Commission may cause the holding to be sold."

It was doubtful whether, under the existing law, the Land Commission were debarred from requiring a holding to be sold after twelve months from the death of the proprietor, even though they had not become aware of his death before the expiration of the twelve months. He therefore moved after the words "twelve months after" the insertion of the words "they become aware of."

Amendment moved—

"In page 28, line 25, after the word 'after' to insert the words 'they become aware of.'" —(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE then moved the insertion of a new sub-section. He stated that the provisions of the clause against sub-division would be nullified if the existing law was allowed to continue.

Amendment moved—

"In page 28, line 34, after the word 'otherwise' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) Not more than one person shall without the consent of the Land Commission be registered as the owner of a holding under Part IV. of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 29, line 2, after the word 'part' to insert the words 'the consent of the Land Commission under this enactment may, in the case of a charge created by a will, be given at any time whether before or after the death of the testator.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said the object of the next Amendment was to prevent the sub-section being retrospective.

Amendment moved—

"In page 29, line 3, to leave out the word 'a' and to insert the word 'the,' and after the word 'holding' to insert the words 'executed after the commencement of this Act.'" —(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE explained that the next Amendment was one which had been accepted in the House of Commons.

Amendment moved—

"In page 29, line 7, after the word 'chargeant,' to insert the words 'or, in the case of a charge created by a will or codicil, within six months from the death of the testator.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON moved to insert a new sub-section, which had for its object the protection of the small owners to be created by this Bill from the gombeening shopkeeper. He said that the safeguards at present in the clause were not sufficient to meet this class of cases, and there would be the greatest danger if some such provision were not inserted.

Amendment moved—

"In page 29, line 8, after the word 'void,' to insert as a new sub-section the words 'No shop debt shall be recoverable by the sale of any such holding, not exceeding ten pounds in rateable value, on which the proprietor resides.'"—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

LORD CASTLETOWN regarded the Amendment as one of supreme importance, as it would protect peasant proprietors from the gombeen men and others who would undoubtedly prey upon them in the absence of such a provision.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said this matter could not be dealt with in this Bill. He appreciated the excellent motives of his noble friend, but they could not deal with one class of debts in this way.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that when once these peasant proprietors had been created they would be liable to run into debt with the local shopkeepers, who would gradually take possession of the holdings all round them, by which means the old system would be again brought about, only in a worse and exaggerated form. The gombeen men, by getting the small owners into debt, could become owners of their lands. He was anxious that some arrangement should be arrived at whereby these small owners could be protected.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said it was perfectly clear that the Amendment, as it stood, was not one which the Government could accept. He did not know that it would afford the protection desired, because a gombeen man might not be a shopkeeper. One effect of making this change would be a general refusal of credit to these small tenants. But, besides that, it would not be a very good kind of education to give to the new proprietors, whom they hoped to see acquiring habits of thrift and self-reliance, to tell them that they were to enjoy a kind of immunity from the consequences of running into debt which was accorded to no other class of the community.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 53, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 54.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 54, as amended, agreed to.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN said the object of the new clause which he proposed to insert after Clause 54, was to enable a vendor to resume on certain conditions little bits of land which were dovetailed into his demesne.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 54, to insert the following new clause: 'The word "estate" in Section 5 of the Act of 1881 shall include such lands of a landlord as are retained by him, or re-purchased upon any sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts, including this Act, and the Land Commission may authorise a resumption under the said section, notwithstanding that the holding in respect of which such resumption is authorised is held at a judicial rent fixed for a first or subsequent statutory term.'"—(*Viscount Templetown.*)

*THE EARL OF CREWE said he understood the object of the noble Viscount was akin to that of his noble friend Lord Inchiquin in the Amendment which he moved to Clause 3 on the previous day, the object being that when a landlord took advantage of Clause 3 to re-purchase his demesne he might be able to acquire certain parcels of land in the possession of his tenants for the purpose of rounding off his demesne, obtaining access to water, planting, making roads, or preserving sporting rights. He suggested that the Amendment should be amended by inserting, after "the Land Commission may," the words "for the purpose of carrying out a re-sale under Clause 3 of this Act." It seemed to him only reasonable that this power of entering into the holding of a tenant should be in connection with the power given under Clause 3 of re-acquiring the demesne. If he remembered rightly, the noble Duke the Leader of the House took exception the previous day to any provision of that kind, on the ground that it was foreign to the general purpose of the Bill, which was to enable tenants to buy holdings, and not to enable landlords to buy holdings from tenants. But it seemed to him that so many of the provisions of the Bill were singular that one anomaly more or less would make very little difference. At an earlier stage in the proceedings they carried, by the only really substantial majority that had been obtained that evening, a clause which was declared on the highest authority to be entirely indefensible on grounds of public honesty, and the excuse which was given in the main for that clause was that without it a great number of sales would not take place. On a much smaller scale he thought the same might be said of this Amendment. He had no doubt that unless some power of this kind was granted, a considerable number of sales would be prevented from taking place, and he hoped the noble Duke would be able to accept the Amendment in some form or other.

LORD CLONBROCK, in supporting the Amendment, said its effect was merely to amend the Clauses in the Act of 1881, which authorised a landlord to resume possession for certain purposes—for the purpose, as Mr. Gladstone stated at the time, of improving his demesne or home farm. But it had been construed by the Court of Appeal that that could only be done when the landlord derived no benefit from it himself. The object of the Amendment was to allow the landlord to do it, although it might benefit himself.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said he was sure that if they could find some reasonable and convenient way of enabling such rounding-off operations of modest character to be carried out under this Bill, they would be glad to see them added to its provisions. But one was bound to look carefully and critically at proposals of this kind, and he was afraid that this particular proposal contained a good deal to which exception might be taken. What he understood to be proposed was this—under the Act of 1881, as they all remembered, there was a clause enabling a landlord to resume a holding, or part of a holding, for the good of the estate, but that provision was very carefully limited, because it was not to be taken advantage of in the first judicial term, and his impression was that it would be extremely difficult to find cases in which landlords had succeeded in putting the clause into operation. Observe what would be done under this Amendment. He understood that the mover proposed, not only to allow these resumptions, but to allow advances to be made for the purpose of resumption, and that the power of resumption should be allowed in the case of a holding which the landlord had thought fit not to sell when he sold the rest of the estate. It seemed to him that that was an arrangement that would lend itself, to say the least of it, to a great deal of misconception, and that it would be precisely the kind of clause which would be open to the objection that it would be the means of creating a source of friction between landlord and tenant. Unless the noble Lord was able to show that that would not be the effect of the Amendment, he could not help hoping that he would not press it.

LORD INCHIQUIN said the noble Marquess had taken an entirely wrong view of the Amendment. All they asked was that the powers which landlords now possessed should be extended to them under this Bill. They asked that the word "estate" should bear the meaning in this Bill that it bore in the existing Act.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said that what had urged them to move this Amendment was this, that the decision in the Courts was at variance with the intentions of the Legislature when the Act of 1881 was passed. They were anxious that they should have what the ramers of that Act meant to give them.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not think there can be any doubt that this proposal would be a considerable alteration of the present Land Acts. The object of this Bill, although it may deal in some minor particulars with the existing Land Acts, is to bring about purchases. Its object is not to amend the existing Land Acts, and therefore I should be inclined to think that this Amendment was out of the proper scope of the Bill. The arrangements which have been indicated, as those which it is desired to give the landlord the power of effecting under this clause, are arrangements which, in our opinion, may be greatly facilitated by the powers given under the second clause of the Bill. The landlord under that clause will have the power of selling any untenanted land in his possession, and that, surely, will give him in the most desirable way, by a process of voluntary arrangement, the means for bringing about any such rectifications of the land which he retains in his own hands as may be desired. At the same time, it would be much more desirable, and equally efficacious, that this re-arrangement of boundaries should be effected in that way rather than by the drastic alterations of the provisions of the existing Land Acts proposed in the Amendment.

LORD INCHIQUIN doubted whether Clause 2 of the Bill gave landlords any such power.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Clause 2 gives the landlord power to sell to the Commissioners untenanted land. That land can be made into holdings, which can be exchanged for any existing holding which the landlord wishes to get into his own hands.

LORD INCHIQUIN said they would have no power of compelling the Land Commission to return the land to them. They were only asking in the Amendment for what was already the law, with the slight addition that the word "estate" should be extended to mean the estate of the landlord as well as of his tenant.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN said the proposed new clause was purely permissive, and he could not see that the tenants were likely to suffer by giving the Land Commission the power proposed.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said he had misunderstood the intention of the noble Lord. He was under the impression that he meant that advances should be made, but he gathered that that was not his intention.

*THE EARL OF CREWE again suggested the addition of the words "for the purpose of carrying out a re-sale under Clause 3." The proposed new clause as he suggested it should be amended, would read—

"The word 'estate' in Section 5 of the Act of 1881 shall include such lands of a landlord as are retained by him or re-purchased upon any sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts, including this Act, and the Land Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out a re-sale under Clause 3 of this Act, authorise a resumption under the said section, notwithstanding that the holding in respect of which such resumption is authorised is held at a judicial rent fixed for a first or subsequent statutory term."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said this would be introducing considerable doubt into the construction of existing Acts. He well remembered the keen discussions upon the power of resumption in connection with the Act of 1881. The power of resumption was then given for the benefit of the estate, and a very broad meaning was given to the word "estate." It was obvious that the Amendment would make a very substantial change, and would be at variance with the construction intended by the Act of 1881. He entirely repudated the suggestion of Lord Donoughmore, that they were to seek for the intention of an Act of Parliament, not in its words, but in some casual speech that was made in the debate upon it. He did not know how they could insist upon that. What the noble Lord had in his mind was this, that when the Land Commissioners were approached and were asked whether they would sanction resumption, that that should be done at the time when negotiations were in progress for the re-purchase by the landlord of his demesne. It could hardly be that that could work out, because, when the landlord had sold and was in the process of buying back his demesne, that could hardly be the moment when, as the noble Earl suggested, the mind of the Land Commission should be directed to these terms of resumption.

He could not say how the Estates Commissioners would deal with it. Then came in the objection of the noble Marquess. They were seeking to apply these great powers to every case. Suppose they were dealing with a case where the whole estate, except certain holdings, had been sold under the Bill; then they would be in this position—that it might be that the owner might be open to the charge that he had left out of his agreement with the Estates Commissioners certain holdings in regard to which he wished afterwards to ask from the Estates Commissioners a power of resumption, and that, if he had not intended to ask for the power of resumption, he would have included in his agreement for sale, and would have sold to the tenants. Therefore this was open to a criticism of a personal character. He objected to it on the broad ground that it was unwise to seek to make in this Bill, and under those conditions, a change in the Land Act of 1881.

Lord INCHIQUIN said the Land Act of 1881 had been so often referred to that he might be permitted to read the portion referred to—

> "During the continuance of a statutory term in a tenancy, save as hereinafter provided, the Court may, on the application of the landlord, and upon being satisfied that he is desirous of resuming the holding or part thereof for some reasonable or sufficient purpose having relation to the good of the holding or of the Estate."

Lord CASTLETOWN said it struck him they had gone too much into small legal details, and had thus lost sight of the broader question. The object of the Bill, as he understood it, was to induce landlords to sell, and then to induce those who had sold to remain in Ireland, if possible, and therefore to allow them to buy back their demesnes. Lord Templetown's only desire was to empower them to say to the landlord who desired to purchase back his demesne, that they had now power to utilise the Act of 1881 to allow him to resume for the benefit of his demesne and for the benefit of his tenants, to whom he was selling such and such a holding, giving the tenant of that holding compensation for the resumption of it. That was the broad view.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE said he admitted that he had not at first accurately apprehended the intention with which this Amendment was moved. He understood it now, but a closer acquaintance with that intention did not make him more favourably disposed towards it. The "estate" within the meaning of the Act of 1881 had now disappeared. They had now to deal, not with an estate, but a re-purchased demesne.

Lord INCHIQUIN disagreed, for the reason that this might have occurred before the sale.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: It was said that for the purpose of improving the demesne, whether re-purchased or not, a power should be given of resumption similar to the power given under the Act of 1881 for the purpose of improving an estate, as it was understood in the Act of 1881. Not only was that the case, but for the purpose of resumption the noble Lord wished to do away with the limitation to be found in the Act of 1881, which prevented these resumptions from taking place during the first judicial term. That seemed to him to be a very dangerous addition to graft on this Bill, and he could not accept it.

*Lord INCHIQUIN quoted the 5th and 6th Sections of the Act of 1881, which met, he said, the last objection of the noble Marquess that the limitation was done away with.

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE said he thought he had been understood to impugn a judgment of the Courts of Dublin. He wished to say that that decision was given by one of the most learned and impartial Judges in Ireland, and he had no intention of impugning it. He also understood that, from a legal point of view, the debates of this House or another place had nothing to do with the interpretation of an Act of Parliament. At the same time they thought it was rather hard that they had not received what Mr. Gladstone stated he wanted them to receive. It was from Mr. Gladstone's speech that they had gathered what this word "estate" meant when the Act of 1881 was carried.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE said that most landlords were anxious to sell to their tenants, but many had one or two holdings running into their demesnes, and unless they could retain those holdings, or acquire possession of them in some way, they would not be able to sell at all.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH said there had been so much sympathy expressed for this Amendment that he would ask the Government if they could not accept it, whether they could see if this point could not be met. He hoped they might see their way on Report to bring up a clause which should meet the demand now being made. He saw the objection to the clause as moved, and the objection to meeting the demand in that way, but, if the Government could see their way to do so, he hoped they would bring up a clause on Report.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said it was no use to have a hard and fast rule of this kind. One of the objects of the Bill was to retain the landlord in Ireland, and if they took away the advantage he would have by having a more or less snug little demesne they would do away with the effect of this Bill. They would prevent landlords from selling and the tenants from selling, and would not be able to carry out the effect of the provisions of this Bill in the same satisfactory manner as they would if the Government listened to the demands of the noble Lord and gave way in this slight measure.

LORD CLONBROCK said he could not divest his mind of the idea that the Government thought that there was some deep-laid plan, some insidious design, about this Amendment. It was not that they were anxious to obtain vast tracts of land and divert them from the purposes of this Bill.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said without affecting to deal with the limits of what the object of this Amendment was, he could not help entering a protest against the meaning of the word "estate" as given to it in the Act of 1881. For aught he knew to the contrary this was a wise and proper thing to do, but not in this way. The effort to do it in this way might produce a greater effect than the noble Lords contemplated. They were giving a particular meaning to the word "estate," not only in the Act which they were enacting, but a different meaning to that which was given to it in the Act of 1881, in which it had, as he understood, been given a different meaning to that which had been given to it by the Judges in Dublin. He did not address himself to the merits of the Amendment, he merely desired to suggest to the noble Lord that it would not be wise to blindly make such a revolutionary concession as this.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH thought the speech of the learned Lord Chancellor was an excellent argument for adopting the course he had suggested. It was only a few moments ago that the noble Lord had read the clause of the Act of 1881 with the very expression which was intended. The word in the Act of 1881 was given the same meaning.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I have no objection to undertake to reconsider this question on Report, but I cannot undertake what the noble Lord has suggested, which is to deal with it. In our opinion we shall not find any way out of the difficulty in any of the ways that have been suggested, should we be able to deal with this question at all. But we can undertake to carefully consider what has been said as to the Act of 1881, in connection with this Act, and see whether we can devise anything to meet the point so strongly pressed by the noble Lord behind me. In my opinion, the object this Amendment has in view must, in the vast majority of cases, be provided for by voluntary arrangement and exchange, which is the course which the noble Lord seemed to wish to be empowered to adopt. I do not know whether there is any other object in the Amendment, but the object spoken of, generally speaking, is to recover some holding which inconveniently juts into the demesne and causes inconvenience thereby. If the owner were given the power which is asked for, of resuming such a holding, he would have to pay a very heavy compensation for it. That was provided by the Act of 1881, and it appears to me that it would be a very much more satisfactory thing for all parties if it could be dealt with by a system of exchange.

LORD CLONBROCK said that it might be that the landlord had no land which he could exchange.

LORD CASTLETOWN appealed to the Lord Chancellor to see if he could not devise before Report some clause which would meet this suggestion.

LORD INCHIQUIN asked if the Government would look at the case again and try and draft some clause to meet them.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN asked whether the Government were giving their undertaking to try and frame such a clause as would meet with universal approval; if so, he would withdraw the clause.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not think I can extend the answer I gave that we would consider the arguments that have been used. I could not give any pledge which would commit me to the opinion that we could adopt the proposal that has been made by the noble Lord. Of course if the Amendment is pressed we are released from our undertaking.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I move that Lord Balfour do take the Chair.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Clause 55.

Amendments moved—

"In page 29, line 24, to leave out the word 'require' and insert the words 'request to be furnished with.'

"In line 26, to leave out from the word 'holding' to the word 'an' in line 27, and insert the words 'in respect of which.'

"In line 27, after the word 'Acts' to insert the words 'has been made.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Clause 55, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 56.

LORD CASTLETOWN said the words he proposed to insert in the new sub-section he intended to move were merely words to simplify the work of the Board, and he felt certain that this would be acquiesced in by the Government. He wished in the last paragraph to add at the end—"And the same shall be payable by the Land Commission to the vendor." The object of those words was only to make the matter a little clearer.

Amendment moved—

"In page 30, line 34, after the word 'matter' to insert as a new sub-section the words 'In the cases of sales to tenants other than sales by the Land Commission or sales by the Land Judge, the date at which interest on the purchase-money payable under Sub-section 2 of Section 35 of the Act of 1896, shall begin to be payable shall be—(*a*) If the agreement for purchase be made on any first day of May or first day of November, from the date of such agreement; (*b*) In all other cases from a date to be specified in the agreement, and not being earlier than the gale day immediately preceding the date of agreement, and the same shall be payable by the Land Commission to the vendor.'"(*Lord Castletown*).

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said his noble friend had said that his object was to obtain clearness, and no doubt that was so, but he did not know that there was any object gained, or any purpose served, by the proposal. Sub-section 2 of Section 35 of the Act of 1896 stated that the interest should start from the date of the agreement, and if the parties chose to date their agreement the 1st of May or the 1st of November the interest would start from that date.

LORD CASTLETOWN: But suppose the agreement was dated on the 1st of July?

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: Then the interest would run from that date.

LORD CASTLETOWN: No; it would then come back to May and November.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: The date of the agreement regulates the first payment.

LORD CASTLETOWN pointed out that the gale day was the 1st of May. Supposing a sale were made on the 1st of February, the gale day being the 1st of May, the landlord would not be able to receive any interest until the 1st of the November following, and in that case he would be out of his interest for nine months.

* THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: I think that the agreement should regulate matters.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 56, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 57.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that the Amendment which was down in his name upon the Paper was practically the same as that put down by the noble Duke to come in after Clause 58. The noble Duke's clause was more ample and so he would not move his clause, he would withdraw it.

Clause 57 agreed to.

Clause 58 agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said that this clause was to provide power to ratify exchange of land in certain cases. It was a clause suggested by the Judge of the Land Court.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 58 to insert as a new clause: '(1.) Where, in the course of proceedings for the sale under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, or the Land Purchase Acts, of an estate it appears that the owner or any tenants of holdings on the estate are in occupation of portions of an adjoining estate, and that the owner or any tenants of holdings on the adjoining estate are in occupation of portions of the first-mentioned estate, whether such exchange of occupation is the result of an agreement or is occasioned by the alteration of the course of a stream, or otherwise, the Land Judge or the Judicial Commissioner, as the case may be, may, if he thinks it expedient, with the consent of the owners of the respective estates, make an order ratifying the exchange, and the order or a map or plan annexed thereto shall show the lands given and taken in exchange respectively. (2.) The lands taken upon any such exchange shall be deemed to be held by the same tenure, and shall, without any conveyance or other assurance in relation thereto, go and enure to and upon the same uses and trusts and be subject to the same rents, conditions, charges and incumbrances, as the land given upon such exchange would have stood limited upon, and been subject to, if the order had not been made; and the land given upon such exchange shall be deemed to be held by the same tenure and shall without any conveyance or other assurance in relation thereto, go and enure to and upon the same uses and trusts and be subject to the same rents, conditions, charges and incumbrances, as the land taken upon such exchange would have stood limited upon and been subject to if the order had not been made. (3.) All rights and remedies for recovery of rents payable in respect of either portion of the lands so exchanged shall be exercisable in respect of and may be pursued against the lands given or taken upon such exchange as the case may be, in the same manner as they might theretofore have been exercised or pursued against the lands originally liable thereto.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 59.

Amendment moved—

"In page 32, line 18, to leave out the word 'the,' and insert the word 'a.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF DROGHEDA said the reason they were desirous of having the words he now proposed to move inserted was that a great number of estates were held under very old patents, going back in some cases as far as Henry VII. and earlier, containing clauses for the reversion to the Crown in default of male heirs. The chances of there being any such reversion were practically groundless, yet the Crown persistently maintained their right. The cost of the redemption of such reversions in the case of important rights sometimes amounted to a considerable sum—in some cases 1 per cent. of the total revenue. These claims were now practically surrendered by the Crown, but they had been re-asserted by a Board called the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenue, and they could have estates valued and bring these claims, and they were privileged to the exemption from costs in cases where they failed to substantiate their claim, except where they were represented by the Attorney-General. This exemption from costs was objected to in the House of Commons, and it was understood that the Government had yielded the point, but when the Report stage came on it was found that no concession had been made, and he therefore asked that it might be made now. There were two ways in which this concession could be made. One was to render the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenue liable to costs when defeated when they were represented by their own counsel, and the other by providing that they should always be represented by the Attorney-General. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 32, after Sub-section (7) to insert as a new sub-section '(8) In all cases in which the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenue are parties to any proceedings in the High Court or the Land Commission, the Court or Judge shall have power to award costs to or against said Commissioners.'"—(*The Earl of Drogheda.*)

Lord ROBERTSON said it seemed an anomalous state of things that when the Crown were represented by the Attorney-General they should be liable to costs and that when they were represented by other counsel they should not be liable. A noble Lord said he could not help thinking that the Government would find that this was very much a matter of form. The old rule that the Crown bears the costs had been entirely done away with. The Government could have no desire except that the costs should follow the unsuccessful party, and if they held on to this then they said with confidence that the desires of the landlords should be satisfied, and that there should be no game of hide-and-seek amongst the Government officials, some of whom were liable and others not.

The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND expressed himself as being unable to see what vestige of connection there was between this Amendment and the Land Purchase Act; it might be that the Commissioners of Woods and Forests should not have exemption from costs if the Court thought they ought to pay them, but what it had to do with the question of land sale he could not see. It was quite true under a special Act of Parliament where the Crown was represented by the Attorney-General a different rule prevailed. The practice of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests was, he believed, that in a proper case they were willing to do what was right. He saw what the noble Lord sought to remedy, and would see if it could be dealt with before Report.

***Lord DUNBOYNE** reminded the Lord Chancellor that the Land Commissioners would have the distribution of the purchase money, and that when it came to be said who was to have the money the Commissioners of Woods, Forests and Land Revenue would have a look in and claim in right of the Crown; therefore, it seemed to him that this Amendment was germane to the matter in hand. However, he would withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 59, as amended, agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 59, to insert as a new clause the words, 'When any quit rent or other perpetual rent payable to the Crown or any portion thereof has been for a period of not less than twenty years, or is, under the provisions of any contract, paid in respect of any lands, such rent, or portion thereof, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be charged on those lands whether originally so charged or not.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 60.

Amendment moved—

"In page 32, line 36, after the word 'balance' to insert as a new sub-section the words, '(3) Where in the like case the Court is satisfied that the land sold is entitled to be indemnified against any claim in respect of a superior interest by other lands, and that the other lands are a sufficient security therefor, the Court may, upon such terms (if any) and in such manner as appears equitable, exclusively charge the whole of the superior interest upon the other lands. (4) The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply with the necessary modifications to any superior interest or portion thereof affecting the land sold, or to the redemption money of such interest or portion, as if the same were land sold.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord CASTLETOWN said the next was a very simple Amendment, and carried out a consequential Amendment moved previously by Lord Templetown. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 32, line 39, after the word 'Crown' to insert the words 'Court in this section means the Land Judge or the Judicial Commissioner as the case may be.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

***The Marquess of LANSDOWNE** said as at present advised he understood this Amendment to be unnecessary. The expression, that the Court must be the Land Commissioner or the Land Judge as the case might be, was absolutely unnecessary, because if the case was one of law it would naturally be settled by the Judicial Commissioner, but if it was a question of fact or value then it seemed a pity to trouble the Judicial Commissioner.

LORD CASTLETOWN thought it would be just as well to use the powers of the Judicial Commissioner as much as possible.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: So they are, he is worked to death.

On Question, Amendment disagreed to.

Clause 60, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 61.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the Amendment standing in the name of the noble Duke was merely a drafting Amendment. The sub-section was not necessary, and its retention in the Bill would only be misleading.

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, to leave out Sub-section 3."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne*).

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 61, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 62.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said that his Amendment to this clause would come in line 17, instead of line 19. The Government had consented to alter the words in line 17 and leave out the words "therein mentioned" and insert the words "of the superior interests." He was much obliged to the Government, and therefore should not move his Amendment on line 19, but move to omit the words "therein mentioned" and insert the words "of a superior interest."

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, line 17, to omit the words 'therein mentioned' in order to insert the words 'of a superior interest.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD CASTLETOWN said the object of this Amendment was that where the superior interest was dealt with, the value of the redemption should be fixed by the Judge, who dealt with it, on such lines that the owner of the superior interests might have the advantage of finding that, on the superior interest so redeemed, he would receive roughly the same rate of income he had received in the past. Noble Lords of England and Scotland did not realise what these superior interests were, but the Lord Chancellor of Ireland knew that they were extremely valuable. There might be land to the value of £4 in the tenancy of a middleman, but out of the redemption price of that land the landlord would receive a very much less sum of money for his £4 than he had been receiving out of the land, which would be very unfair. Superior interests were as good security as Consols or better, as they were less variable. Should they be redeemed at a less price than what the lands of the inferior interests were sold at, and the middleman benefits by the action and nobody else? This Amendment carried out the whole spirit of the Bill. The spirit of the Bill of the Land Conference, upon which the Bill was based, was that the owner of the income should receive, as nearly as possible, the same income that he was receiving when the Bill passed into law. If these superior interests were redeemed at the low rates they had been, the interests of the superior owner would be seriously hurt. He would ask the Government to agree to this Amendment, which was a very fair one, and leave it entirely to the Land Judge to decide what the price of the redemption should be. Lord Belmore had asked him to insert a few words at the end of this clause, and after he had heard what the Government had said, he would ask leave to insert them. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, line 19, after the word 'be' to insert the words 'and in determining such price, regard shall be had to the rate of interest which might be obtained upon such redemption price if the same were invested in trustees' securities.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

THE EARL OF BELMORE said that before the noble Lord answered he would like to say a word as to the position of the owner of superior interests. He happened to be the owner of superior interests, and he also had to pay head-rents to other people. It so happened in one case that his head-rent was so much in excess of what he got out of the land that not only would it take all the purchase money of that piece of land, and the whole of the bonus, which he would not object to, but he would have to put his hand into his own pocket and add to it, if the person to whom he paid that head-rent was to get the same income if it was to be invested at 3 per cent., and what would make the case more hard was that the gentleman who would receive this money would not invest it at 3 per cent., but would use it to pay off a mortgage for which he was paying 5 per cent. He quite agreed that the head landlord should get all the land was worth, but no man should pay more money than he was getting, and in addition to that a sum he did not owe.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he thought there was considerable danger from the point of view of the noble Lord who desired to insert the words. It was a great responsibility to be called upon to fix the value of such a special and preferential interest, and therefore it was that the tribunal selected was the best and highest that could be named. In other Acts of Parliament it was left to arbitration, and never had they got so fair a system as this of the two Judges named. If they went and told them, instead of leaving it as the Bill left it, to look to them to see that a fair sum was given, that they were to consider one element, and only one element, they would inevitably imperil their taking a broader view.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that what actually happened in fact, was that he had a superior interest which was sold, in which the Court fixed its value at 25 per cent. of the purchase price, so that those persons who had superior interests received just half the value of their superior interests. There were cases that he could quote where the income from superior interests amounted to £5,000 or £6,000, and a tremendous diminution immediately arose. He did not think it was derogatory to these eminent Judges to suggest to them that they should carry out the spirit of the Bill, and that the men whose superior interests were redeemed should receive as much as they received from their superior interests before they were redeemed. It was the same thing all the way through the piece. It had always been, "If you leave it to the Judges it will be all right." What had they heard as to the resumption of the holdings? They read in the Act of 1881 that these holdings should be resumed, but it was "leave it to the Judges" and they were not resumed.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: I repudiate ever having said anything of the sort.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that was so, but that was the result—that was the spirit of the Bill, and it was discarded. He should not press this Amendment to a division, but it did appear to him to be a most extraordinary thing, that whenever an Amendment was moved to carry out the spirit of the Bill, the noble Lord said the Government could not agree to it because something else might happen.

On Question, Amendment disagreed to.

Clause 62, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 63.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said this was a drafting Amendment. It was of importance that the Land Commission should have the power conferred by the clause for forcing a sale.

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, line 22, to leave out the words 'for the non-payment of any sum due to them.'"—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 63, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 64 agreed to.

Clause 65.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the Amendment in the name of the Lord President was necessary in order to provide for a case in which the Land Commission consented to a portion of the land being sold to the proprietor of another holding.

Amendment moved—

"In page 34, line 6, after the word 'deposit' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(3) Where any land upon which portion of a purchase annuity has been arranged by the Land Commission is conveyed to the proprietor of a holding subject to a purchase annuity, that holding and the land so conveyed shall be deemed one holding, and of the said annuity, and portion shall be payable in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.'"—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE hoped that the Government would be able to indulge the generous feelings which actuated them by accepting this Amendment. At present as the Bill stood any superior interests must be redeemed on the sale of an estate. The object of his Amendment was to enable another course to be taken. If a noble Lord had a mother aged 60 with a jointure of £1,000, as the Bill stood, if the estate on which the jointure was charged was sold, an annuity would have to be bought at the cost, £13,000, and this large sum would be for ever lost to the inheritants. The sub-clause which he proposed to put into the Bill would enable a sum of money sufficient to pay the jointure to be put aside, and then on the death of the tenant the capital sum would revert to the property. The case for the Amendment was much stronger if instead of a mother aged 60 it was a young stepmother, because in that case a much larger sum would be required to purchase the annuity. He hoped the Government would be able to see their way to accept this new clause he now begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 34, after line 6, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(3) The powers and provisos for the redemption or satisfaction of superior interests conferred by Section 31 of the Act of 1896 shall be varied and extended so as to enable the owner to satisfy a terminable charge by investing a capital sum in investments authorised pursuant to this Act, the interest on which will be sufficient to pay the charge, and thereupon the balance of the purchase-money shall be discharged from any lien in respect of such superior interest, and upon the termination of the charge the said capital sum so invested shall revert to the person or persons to whom the benefit of the succession would have accrued on the death of the annuitant had the estate not been sold.'"—(*Lord Oranmore and Browne.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said he had been assured that what the noble Lord desired could be done under the existing law.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE said that Lord Wemyss had said it had been done but not legally.

LORD CASTLETOWN said he had had two or three of these cases, and in each case had had to put the money into settlement.

On Question, Amendment disagreed to.

Clause 65, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 66 agreed to.

Clause 67.

LORD CASTLETOWN said he had two Amendments on this clause both dealing with the case of those tenants who purchased their holdings. He did not intend to press them because they were very technical, and it would take a long time to explain them. Their object was to bring into the system the principle to be adopted as soon as a large number of tenants had purchased. He understood it was proposed to bring in a Bill next year to deal with the whole question, and under the circumstances he should not move either clause.

Clauses 67 and 68 agreed to.

Clause 69.

Amendment moved—

"In page 34, line 42, after the word 'may' to insert the words 'on the application of any person interested, or without such application, with the consent of the Lord Chancellor, and leave out the words 'such authority, and insert the words 'the Judicial Commissioner if he thinks fit.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 69, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 70.

Amendment moved—

"In page 35, line 17, after the word 'cent.' to insert the words 'per annum.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 70, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 71 agreed to.

Clause 72.

Amendment moved—

"In page 33, line 40, after the word 'the' to insert the words 'trustees of the.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 72, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 73 agreed to.

Clause 74.

Amendment moved—

"In page 36, line 18, after the word 'less' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) Sub-section 4 of Section 3 of this Act shall apply in the case of any land in respect of which an advance is made in pursuance of this section.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 74, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 75 agreed to.

Clause 76.

Amendment moved—

"In page 36, line 35, after the word 'cutting' to insert the words 'or making.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 76, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 77 to 81 agreed to.

Clause 82.

Amendment moved—

"In page 38, line 2, after the word 'Board' to insert the words 'in lieu of the members of the Land Commission nominated under Sub-section 1 of Section 34 of the Act of 1891.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 82, as amended, agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The object of the new clause I now propose is to repeal the section which prevented them spending any money in the congested districts. This is in the interest of all those interested in that part of Ireland.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 82 to insert as a new clause the words: 'Section 18 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, which makes provision with respect to congested districts counties, is hereby repealed.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire*).

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 83 agreed to.

Clause 84.

LORD CASTLETOWN said the Amendment put down in his name on the Paper was for the purpose of assisting the Civil Bill Court Judge in performing his duties. At the present time, when a case came before the County Court Judge, he could call in to his assistance an expert to judge on the value, but the men called in were not generally men of very high calibre, being generally broken down farmers. The object of this clause was to obtain a man of high calibre. He thought it would facilitate very much the work of the County Court, and it would undoubtedly give much more satisfaction and knowledge and stability to the suitors in that Court, because very often now the experts brought in to assist the County Court Judge were men who touted for the work, what might be called temporary men, who were often very much biassed one way or the other, whereas the Lay Assistant Commissioner would be a permanent servant of the Crown and would have absolute knowledge of the work he would have to do. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 38, line 35, after the second word 'Commissioner' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) For the purpose of assisting the County Court Judge in determining any question under the Land Law Acts relating to a holding, the Land Commission shall assign to each Civil Bill Court a Lay Assistant Commissioner, who shall inspect the holding, sit with, and assist the County Court Judge as a Lay Assessor.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he was perfectly sure his noble friend understood the working of these matters in Ireland, but this clause might be appalling on the ground of expenditure. The County Courts of Ireland, Courts for which he had the greatest respect, administered the Land Acts very slenderly. The original assumption was that the Act was to be left entirely in their hands. It was then suggested that the Sub-Commissioners should be the administrators, and that was agreed to by the House of Commons. To add on to each of the County Courts of Ireland a Lay Assistant Commissioner would be a vast addition of expenditure which would be entirely disproportionate to the result. The County Court Judge had now the opportunity of calling in the Court valuer who, no doubt, was a temporary man, and there was no doubt it would be better to have a permanent official, but that was the counsel of perfection. Of course if money were no object, and there was likely to be no friction with the Treasury it would be better to have permanent lay assistants, but he thought that the present system worked fairly and reasonably, and in that way it gave no dissatisfaction.

LORD CASTLETOWN said he thought the noble Lord was wrong about the expenditure, but, of course, if the noble Lord wished to fix these rents on a cheap and nasty system he could not help it. He would withdraw this Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 84 agreed to.

Clause 85.

Amendment moved—

"In page 38, line 36, at the beginning of the clause to insert the words 'subject to the provisions of this Act.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD MACNAGHTEN hoped that the Lord Chancellor of Ireland would not think the Amendment he now proposed to move was an appalling one. All they desired was that such appeals as were heard should be heard in a satisfactory manner. The practice up to this time had always been that before the Sub-Commissioners very little evidence was brought in, because no attention was ever paid to it at all. The objection he had to this proposal was that it would vastly increase the costs, because everybody would be afraid of an appeal by the other side, and they would bring in reams of evidence in case an appeal might be taken by the other party. He did not know what the practice was that his noble and learned friend proposed to substitute by way of appeal, but no evidence if it be taken was admissible on appeal. The evidence had to be taken in the Court below, and there seemed to be no provision made in that regard. To him it seemed to be inconvenient and unfair. He suggested that there should be rehearings and no appeals. He moved to omit ' appeals " and insert " rehearings."

Amendment moved—

"In page 38, line 38, to leave out word 'appeals,' and insert the words 'apply for a re-hearing.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said his noble and learned friend was not perhaps familiar with the proceedings that went on in the Land Court. His Amendment, though not appalling, did contain some points which required some consideration. One of the extreme difficulties in the way of the Land Court was the number of appeals that were taken. There were many thousands of fair-rent appeals still outstanding, although the Court was sitting very constantly. Owing to the drafting of the Land Act of 1881 it came about that the word "appeal" was used when in the early drafting of the Bill it was intended that the County Court Judge was to be the sole tribunal to hear fair-rent cases. When they added on to that the fact that Sub-Commissioners should be appointed, the word "rehearing" came in. There were now practically two systems—the appeal proper from the County Court Judge, and the rehearing from the Sub-Commissioner. When the matter was looked into now for the purpose of recasting it with a view to efficiency, it was deemed wise to consider whether the two systems should be kept up, or whether the appeals should be kept up or the rehearings, and it was decided to keep the appeals. His noble and learned friend appeared to be more in favour of keeping the system of rehearings. To the end of time there might be a difference with regard to that, but, on the whole, the system of appeal had worked as well as any system of the kind could, though he did not pretend to suggest it was at all perfect. It was therefore provided that appeals should be heard by the Judicial Commissioner with the assistance of a lay assessor taken from a carefully prepared list.

Lord MACNAGHTEN said, so far as he understood, there was no objection to the appointment of a lay assessor, but he should be a real assessor; he should hear the evidence for himself, inspect the farm and make a report to the Judicial Commissioner. That seemed to fall in with the suggestions his hon. and learned friend had made, and would make it workable and satisfactory so far as he was concerned.

*The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND said on this particular Amendment he had said all he desired to say. He assumed that the assessor would be available and would sit beside the Judge to give the Judge all the assistance he required. But they had not come to that yet.

Lord MACNAGHTEN said it was almost necessary that the assessor should see the property for himself.

*The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND said of course, very often he would require to.

Lord MACNAGHTEN asked, had the noble and learned Lord any objection to accept his suggestion upon this point ?

*The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND: We have not got to that yet.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

Lord MACNAGHTEN asked what was the difference between an appeal and a rehearing,

*The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND said it had been found that they had to deal with a particular aspect of the question, and in administration it had been proved that under the rehearing system over and over again ardly any evidence had been given in the Court below ; that every thing had been reserved for the appelate Court, which was to the last degree unsatisfactory, because when it came to the rehearing, it had to be begun *ab ovo.* There were careful provisions in this Bill to indicate that, if parties did keep back their evidence and did not make their case as perfect as possible in the first place, there might be a question of costs.

Lord MACNAGHTEN said what he was afraid of, most of all, was that if his noble friend insisted on this provision the expenses would be enormously increased. In many cases what would happen would be that there would be a good deal of suspicion. When they went to the Court each side would be suspicious of the other, and each would be afraid the other would appeal, and they would put in enormous masses of evidence which was absolutely unnecessary, and thus increase the costs.

Lord DUNBOYNE asked whether the Sub-Commissioners took any notes at all of what took place before them. He was under the impression they did not. His experience, he said, had been that these gentlemen went down and looked at a property, and the next thing one knew about it was that he got a halfpenny post-card on which was "landlord so and so, tenant so and so, original rent so much, new rent so much." That was all one knew about it. If there was to be any appeal there ought to be some note of the judgment below in order to enable the Court of Appeal to deal thoroughly with the evidence. So far as he knew in a case of this kind here, they not only had the notes of the Judge who heard the case in the Court below, but if necessary a note of his judgment as well.

*The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND said so far as he knew in all cases of appeal before the Land Commission for the fixing of a fair rent a very full shorthand note was taken.

Lord MACNAGHTEN said he did not like to contradict the noble and learned Lord, but as a fact no shorthand note was ever taken, and if by chance one was taken it was not allowed to be used in the Court of Appeal and was of no use whatever.

On Question, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 42; Not-Contents, 55.

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Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*
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Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
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Somerhill, L. (*M. Clanricarde.*)
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*) [*Teller.*]
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Words inserted.

Lord CASTLETOWN said there was a small Amendment in his name dealing with the assessor who was to be the brain carrier of the Judge. It asked that the assessor should go down and see the holding. If he was to know anything of the case he should go down and see the holding with which he was to deal. Lord Macnaghten had an Amendment which was, perhaps, a little fuller, and therefore he would withdraw his Amendment in order that the noble Lord might move his.

Lord MACNAGHTEN said he would move his Amendment to include Lord Castletown's.

Amendment moved—

"In page 39, line 5, at the end, to insert the words, 'who shall inspect the holding and report thereon to the Judicial Commissioner.'."—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said there was not much difference of opinion on this point between the noble and learned Lord and himself. The noble and learned Lord held the opinion that such an important man as an assessor should know what the evidence was by listening and otherwise, and it was necessary often to see the holding in order to tell the Judge its value. He assumed that all these topics would be dealt with by rules which would provide for all these things. He thought it might be a little dangerous to put in words which would indicate the exact point of time for the inspection, because it might well be that the Judge in particular cases might like to have an inspection in advance. He would much prefer that his noble friend would somewhat recast his Amendment so that the wording would leave it possible for the rules to cover the matter.

LORD MACNAGHTEN pointed out that there was a strong objection to "rules," but he would be glad to meet the views of his noble friend, and therefore he would have no objection to omit the word " after."

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he had no objection to accepting the Amendment at this stage, but he must reserve his right to criticise it on Report.

On Question, Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Amendments moved—

"In page 39, line 10, after the word 'which' to insert the words 'should have been but.'"

"In line 12, after the word 'Commissioner' to insert the words 'who hears the appeal.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said he proposed to leave out after the word "rehearings" in line 22 all the rest of the section. He begged to move.

Amendment moved--

"In page 39, line 22, after the word 'rehearings' to leave out the words to the end of line 23.—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said there was one difference, as he had indicated already, in the administration of the Land Acts of Ireland with reference to these appeals. He did not like to use such expressions as blame, but it was extremely inconvenient that the parties, instead of making their case as perfect as possible in the Court of first instance, should either make no case or a very inadequate case and thus delay the business in the Court of Appeal, when if they had taken the trouble to make a case in the lower Court they could have had a decision quicker and cheaper. Unless there was some provision put in to indicate to the parties that they might not only incur delay but that they might be mulcted in higher stamps or costs in this section, no doubt it would be unsatisfactory. If the words went out it was desirable that something should be put in in place of them, and if the noble Lord consented to those words going out on the understanding that he reserved his full right to consider whether he should put in other words on Report, he had no objection to the Amendment.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said the noble Duke could add what he liked on Report, but it would be more satisfactory if those words were struck out now,

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 85, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 86 agreed to.

Clause 87.

*THE EARL OF WESTMEATH said they had considered this clause very carefully and had come to the conclusion that it was so very mischievous that they could do nothing with it but omit it altogether from the Bill. There were a great number of landlords who had tenants whose rentals were less than £5 a year, and they rightly objected to such a tribunal as this and no case for appeal unless the rent had been varied more than 20 per cent. It was a distinct invitation to the tribunal to vary the rent each time by 19 per cent. until the rent was reduced to nothing at all. The only ground upon which such a clause could be supported was the ground of economy.

But it was false economy to take away people's property in this way. Not one member of the Government could support the clause and would not desire to, and he hoped, unless some satisfactory explanation was forthcoming, which he did not think was possible, that their Lordships would support his Amendment and get the clause taken out of the Bill altogether. He moved.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 87."—(*The Earl of Westmeath.*)

THE EARL OF ARRAN said they all hoped, and most of them believed, that this Bill was going to work, but nobody could be sure that it was going to be an operative measure. Therefore he suggested that no economy should be made in the judicial procedure until they saw how the Bill would work. It would be like a man throwing away his life-belt before he knew whether he could swim. He hoped the Government would agree to the withdrawal of this clause and wait two or three years before they sought to incorporate it in the Bill, so that they might see if the Bill worked.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: This clause, which I cannot say I have had much opportunity of considering, appears to have been introduced mainly with the object of economy, which is a very desirable object, considering what a very large expenditure of public money in Ireland the Treasury has sanctioned under this Bill. This proposal was chiefly dictated by a desire to give effect to an undertaking given by the Government of Ireland, that every effort would be made to reduce what appears to be the excessive and ever-increasing cost of the land laws of Ireland. I am unable, however, to say that strong and able arguments from the point of view of the landlords have not been urged against the clause, and I shall not ask the House to divide against the Amendment. In saying that, however, I must ask noble Lords to understand that I cannot, in assenting to this course, give an undertaking as to what view may be taken of such an Amendment as this in the House of Commons. I believe it was part of the financial arrangement, and that it was agreed to after consultation with the Treasury, and I am not in a position to say that the representatives of the financial interests of the country in the other House may be able to give their consent to such an important departure as the omission of this clause.

*THE EARL OF WESTMEATH said he was much obliged to the noble Duke, and he hoped he would use his great influence with his colleagues in the other House to induce them to adopt an equally reasonable attitude.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 88.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 17, after the word 'reason' to insert the word 'solely.'"—(*The Duke oj Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 19, to leave out the word 'judicially' and insert the words 'in the absence of other provisions.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 21, after the word 'apply' to insert the words 'as from the commencement of this Act.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that after the debate which took place last night with reference to Trinity College, Dublin, and the very eloquent and able appeal made by his noble friend Lord Rathmore, he did not wish to press the matter farther, but would ask the noble Duke in charge of the Bill whether he could not discuss with Mr. Wyndham the point that was raised on this question in the other place by Mr. Healy. Mr. Healy dealt with the matter in an able and instructive fashion, and in the reply of the Chief Secretary it was suggested that a Commission might be appointed during the next year or two to deal with this very crucial point. Could not the noble Duke consult the Chief Secretary and obtain the appointment of a Commission soon? It would free Trinity College from the trammels it unwittingly entered into by which 10,000 or 12,000 tenants were debarred from sale, and it would enable the tenants to exercise their rights under the Bill fairly and squarely. He thought this would be the best solution of the difficulty.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 24, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert as a new sub-section:—'Any tenant holding land under a lease or grant made in pursuance of the provisions of the Church Temporalities Acts or the Trinity College Leasing Powers Acts reserving a variable rent calculable as aforesaid may, if such rent exceeds one half the annual rateable value of such land, apply to the Land Commission in the prescribed manner to have the rent payable under such lease or grant varied in the same manner as is provided by the said Act of 63 & 64 Vict, c. 58, in respect of tithe rent-charge, and thereupon the Land Commission shall, after giving such notice as may be prescribed to the owners of such rents, determine the said rent in the same manner as if the said rent were tithe rent-charge, and the provisions of the said Act will apply with the necessary modifications.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE said he would consult the Chief Secretary, but it did not appear to him that it was a matter that could be dealt with immediately.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 88, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 89 agreed to.

Clause 90.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 30, after the words '1881' to insert the words 'or under that section.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of DONOUGHMORE proposed an Amendment providing that rules under Section 50 of the Act of 1881 should be made by a majority of the Land Commissioners, which majority shoud include the Judicial Commissioner. His object was to secure that the Judicial Commissioner should be a member of the majority in the case of a division on the rules.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 31, after the word 'days' to insert the words 'all such rules shall be made by a majority of the Land Commissioners, which majority shall include the Judicial Commissioner.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE said he was under the impression that this question had been disposed of in a former Amendment.

The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: They are different rules.

The LORD CHANCELLOR of IRELAND said that the rules were different, but he understood that when they were dealing with the previous rules the Amendment was not insisted upon. It might make a variety if there were provisions in this clause different from those in a previous part of the Bill.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 90, as amended, agreed to.

Lord EMLY said he understood that this Bill was a genuine attempt to settle the Irish land question according to the wishes of the Irish people. Labourers and artisans formed a large portion of the Irish people, but they were absolutely excluded from any benefits under this Bill. He failed to see why the same facilities should not be afforded to them for the purchase of their cottages and their plots as was contemplated to be afforded to the farmers. He appealed to noble Lords who were owners of property in Ireland whether at a later period the support of the Irish labour party in Ireland might not be a thing to be desired. Undoubtedly the labourers and artisans felt it exceedingly hard that they had been excluded from all benefits under the Bill. If they were not included in the Act he, for one, believed that the land agitation that was now disappearing would be followed by a labour agitation of a far worse and more far-reaching character. He begged to move an Amendment which would give the labourers and artisans the benefits conferred by the Bill.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 90, to insert as a new clause the words 'The occupier of any cottage now or hereafter to be erected under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, shall be entitled to purchase his homestead on such terms as the Local Government Board shall approve, not being a larger sum than the said cottage cost to the District Council, and the Land Commission may advance to such occupier the entire purchase money on the same terms as this Act provides for agricultural holdings."—(*Lord Emly.*)

*THE EARL OF BELMORE rose to point out the inconvenience that would arise if the Amendment were inserted in the Bill. He appreciated the benevolent motives of the noble Lord who brought forward the Amendment but he did not think it would work well if it were carried into effect. The noble Lord lived in a part of Ireland where there were a great many labourers' cottages, built under the Act of 1883 and the subsequent Acts, and the noble Lord probably knew more about the matter than he did, through having come into contact, in a private capacity with the subject. In his (the Earl of Belmore's) part of Ireland, and in all the North of Ireland, labourers' cottages had been very sparingly built under the Act, and in the Union in which he lived, and of which he was chairman of the board of guardians for a good many years, after the Act of 1883 was passed not a single cottage had been built. He therefore did not know much about that subject in his private capacity, but he knew a great deal about it in his official capacity because it had often been his lot to sit with the Lord Chancellor for Ireland in the Irish Privy Council in appeals on this question. He knew the immense amount of feeling that was evoked when an attempt was made to put a cottage on to a man to spite him, and he also knew that very often the applications appeared to the Privy Council to be quite unreasonable. The initiative in this matter was taken by a representation, signed by a number of persons who might be labourers or anybody else, asking the board of guardians or the Local Government Board to build one or more cottages in a union. The object of the Act was not to provide a house for "A" or "B," or any particular labourer so that they could live there for the rest of their lives, but to provide for the labour wants of the district or to provide for a sufficient number of labourers in a particular district. What would happen if this Amendment were accepted? A man who happened for the moment to be in the occupation of one of these cottages built under the Acts, would be entitled to get an advance under this Bill to buy that cottage, which would then become his own property, and in which he would be able to reside for all time. When he first acquired his cottage he might be a suitable person for the district and the particular farmer who employed him, but he might take to drunken habits and become useless as a labourer, spend half his time in bed getting over the results of a debauch. It might also happen that a respectable man might get tired of being a labourer, gather a little money and set up a shop. In these cases the man would be useless for the cottage and would be keeping somebody else out of it. That was a practical objection, and he hoped that their Lordships would not agree to the Amendment. It would also be a pity if this clause were put into the Bill instead of being embodied in a separate Bill. So far as he knew, the questions of labourers had been dealt with under a separate series of Acts which formed a sort of code in themselves, and the suggested clause would be embodied in a Bill and added to them and considered on its merits; it was undesirable to mix up those questions with the Bill before them, which was primarily intended to deal with land purchase.

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON agreed that the question could be dealt with better under a separate Bill. They knew that in another place the Government had stated that they would see if they could not deal with it during the next session of Parliament. But as the question had arisen in this shape he should like to express his approval of the principle of the clause moved by his noble friend, as he thought the existing system was not at all satisfactory, as many Lords from the South of Ireland, where most of the cottages were built, must have realised. It would be better if the labourers became holders of cottages instead of tenants of a board of guardians, for the latter was not a suitable body for landlords, because there were many difficulties in the way, as regarded repairs for instance. It would be better for the labourers and better for the community if labourers were put into a position of independence. Without associating himself altogether with the exact terms of the clause he wished to express his approval of its principle.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said he did not think it would be competent for the House to insert the Amendment in the present Bill, but turning from a point of form to one of substance, he understood that the question was raised over and over again in the Committee stage in the other House, where it was decided that it was not a subject that could properly be dealt with in the present Bill. In reference to the subject of labourers he understood that a pledge was given by the Chief Secretary that he would look into the whole matter at his earliest leisure with a view of introducing a Bill in another session. It was, however, impossible to include any legislation on the subject of labourers in the present Bill.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 91.

Amendment moved—

"In page 40, line 38, to leave out the words 'the representation,' and insert the words 'any representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, affecting him.' "—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD EMLY moved an Amendment which he said would apply the Act to any artisan wholly or mainly employed by the agricultural population. In the speech delivered by Mr. Wyndham when he was the guest of the Manchester Conservative Club, he said that Ireland was a country mainly agricultural, deprived of mineral wealth and without the alternative open to the rural dwellers in England. He (Lord Emly) wished to point out that no less than 3,000 artisans emigrated last year. These statistics bore out the remarks made by Mr. Wyndham. On the other hand, Mr. Wyndham went on to say that—

"It was to our interest that Ireland should be prolific and satisfied. It must be the desire and hope of every true Imperialist that she should become a bridge instead of as now a chasm between ourselves and Canada."

To those 3,000 artisans who left Ireland in 1902 must be added 35,000 emigrants, out of which 33,000 were agricultural labourers. In these circumstances he should like to know from Mr. Wyndham, at some other time, how he expected Ireland to be prolific or satisfied. What was the bridge of which Mr. Wyndham spoke? He could get no answer to that question. What was the bridge made of? Were the girders the 40,000 human beings who left Ireland in 1902. To his mind the only way of dealing with this question was to deal very liberally with the artisans, labourers, and the labour population by extending to the fullest degree the operation of the Labourers Acts. The Irish artisans had not even the same facilities as were afforded to the English artisans, and were at a great disadvantage compared with them. He would not detain the House further in consequence of the remarks made by the noble Duke, who had practically pledged the Government to look into the administration of the Labourers Acts, presumably at a very early date.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 40, line 39, after the word 'day' to insert the words 'or any artisan wholly or mainly employed by the agricultural population in the district.' "—(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 91, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 92.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 6, after the word 'representation,' to insert the words 'and should they propose to make any alteration in the said scheme, they must state in writing the reason or reasons for such alteration, and submit this reason or those reasons so stated in writing to the Local Government Board, for the sanction, amendment, or rejection of such alteration by the Local Government Board.' "—(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 92 agreed to.

Clause 93.

LORD EMLY proposed an Amendment to Clause 93, page 41, lines 10 and 11, instead of "a Court of summary jurisdiction," to insert "the County Court Judge." The labourers, he said, had no confidence whatever in the ordinary Court of summary jurisdiction, which was generally composed of two or three big farmers in the district, and to imagine that they would do justice to the labourers was to imagine the millennium.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'a Court of summary jurisdiction' and insert the words 'the County Court Judge.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said the noble Lord had moved the Amendment on the ground that the labourers would not have confidence in the Court of summary jurisdiction, of which the Irish landlords were all members. He (the Earl of Donoughmore), as a landlord, objected to the Court of summary jurisdiction, on the ground that a great many of the labourers were members of it, and sat on the bench, so that both he and the noble Lord agreed that the Court of summary jurisdiction was a bad one for these purposes.

LORD EMLY said he did not think the noble Lord quite understood his point. He objected to the Court of summary jurisdiction not because the noble Lords opposite or the landlords were members of that Court, but because on those Courts they found certain farmers —big farmers—who naturally and instinctively would take part against the labour population.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he was even still more in agreement with the noble Lord than he thought he was. The point they had to urge was that under the Petty Sessions Act, they had no right of appeal unless the decision gave the labourer as much as one sovereign compensation. If the Court decided that the compensation was only a matter of shillings they would have no right of appeal, and they would have to pay the costs. Look at the way the clause worked. A labourer applied for a cottage and put in his representation paper in the ordinary way. If he was dismissed for any crime or fault he had a right within twelve months to drag his employer into Court claiming that he had been dismissed because he signed a representation paper, and it would be a very difficult thing to prove that such was not the case. He shuddered at the thought of the hard swearing there would be on both sides when such a case came up. He (the Earl of Donoughmore) might explain to noble Lords who were not familiar with the working of the clause that when a man made an application he had to get six others to back him up. Even if a man backed up a friend it gave him a *locus* under this clause, and if he was dismissed within twelve months for any fault he could drag his employer into Court and claim that he had been dismissed because he backed up a friend who, perhaps, lived miles away. The employer had no right of appeal, and would therefore have to pay all the costs if the compensation awarded was less than a sovereign. He contended that this would work unfairly to all classes, and he hoped that the Government would see their way to let the parties go to the County Court, a Court with which all parties were likely to be satisfied. If the Government did that Members would be the first to admit, after a few months working, that the change had been of benefit.

LORD INCHIQUIN said that he had an Amendment down on the Paper to omit the whole clause, which he should have to press unless the present Amendment were accepted. If the Court was changed as proposed it would alter his views as to the harm the clause would do. As had been pointed out, the present procedure was that when any labourer who was in receipt of less than 2s. 6d. a day applied for a cottage, he had to get his application signed by twelve men. Under the new Bill it was proposed to reduce the number to six. If a man made an application or concurred in making an application, and within twelve months afterwards was dismissed, he could apply to the Court for compensation, alleging that he had been dismissed because he had applied or concurred in an application for a cottage. He (Lord Inchiquin) might mention cases on his own estate. Only a short time ago no less than twenty-nine applications were made, fifteen for new cottages and fourteen for the extra half acre. Each of those applications would require under the new Bill six signatures, but under the old Bill it was twelve, so that in this instance no less than 203 persons would come under this clause, and that number practically represented the whole of the labour for the district. The consequence would be that if any of those labourers had to be dismissed from their employment they would be able to take the employers into Court and claim three months wages. It was also proposed that instead of three months wages the labourer should be entitled to six months wages. Three months wages represented £9 15s., and six months wages would mean £19 10s. That was a grossly unfair thing, and it was impossible for a landlord to go into Court and prove that he had not dismissed the man because he applied for a cottage, unless the offence were a grave one, and the ground of dismissal was that the man was of drunken habits, that he came late every day, or that he had refused to carry out orders, all comparatively small things which were very difficult to prove before any Court, and more especially before a Court of summary jurisdiction, which meant a petty sessional Court. He did not wish to impute wrong motives to those Courts, but he had no confidence in them. He asked their Lordships to accept the Amendment, which would substitute the County Court Judge for the petty sessional Court, and if the Amendment were carried it would remove most of his objections to the clause.

Lord ROBERTSON considered this was a very serious question. It was entirely a new ground of liability for damages, which seemed to him, if it were applicable to Ireland, to be equally applicable to the rest of the United Kingdom. It appeared that the situation was this: that in order to procure a claim to three months wages, all a labourer had to do was to present an application under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and then, supposing that he was the most drunken or incompetent servant going, if he were dismissed. and could persuade a friendly tribunal that the ultimate motive of his employer was resentment at his having made such an application, he had the money in his pocket. That seemed to him to be absolutely monstrous. What the noble Lord opposite (Lord Emly) had said was to a certain extent plausible, but he (Lord Robertson) objected to all these tinkering Amendments. The proper plan would be to withdraw them, and to move the rejection of the clause. They were now entering a region where one could hardly lift a finger without being liable in damages. The question which was to be submitted to the tribunal was the very obscure and difficult one of the motive which actuated the landlord in dismissing a labourer. Social life would be intolerable if a Court of law were called upon to make a scrutiny into the motives of an employer. They were now trenching upon the rights of private life in all the three kingdoms, and he objected most strongly to assenting to a clause of this kind, or to acknowledging procedure upon clauses of this kind, where the basis of liability was whether the breach was purely imaginary.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE admitted that the appearance of this clause was somewhat strange to those of their Lordships who might not be aquainted with the circumstances which called it into existence, but he might inform them that the reason why the clause was introduced was that in certain parts of Ireland, he did not believe in the South or West at all, but to a large extent in the North, the Labourers (Ireland) Acts had been rendered completely nugatory by the action of district councils and the tenant farmers. In a great many districts the practice had arisen of intimidating labourers from making use of their rights under the Labourers Dwellings Act by threatening them with dismissal, or by actually dismissing them. That was the reason why this clause was introduced into the Bill in the other House, and it appeared to have commended itself, and to have been supported by arguments which convinced the other House that such a provision was necessary. Not being aware of the history of the clause to a greater extent than he had explained, he must leave the clause to their Lordships. He concurred entirely in the view that it would be better to abstain from any Amendments such as had been suggested by the noble Lord opposite [Lord Emly], and that their

Lordships should decide whether the clause should remain in the Bill as a whole.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN: It would be interesting indeed if the noble Duke says he does not know——

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: I told the House what I knew of the history of the clause. If the noble Earl did not hear me——

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN: I listened most carefully.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: It was introduced by reason of the working of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts having been rendered entirely inoperative by the action of district councils and farmers.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN said he wished to inquire by whom the clause was introduced. Was it introduced by the Government and was it an original clause in the Bill? The noble Duke had told them he only knew the history of the clause so far as he stated it, and of course to that they listened very carefully and knew exactly what he said.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: I understand it was an original clause.

Lord MACNAGHTEN said he came from the North of Ireland and what the noble Duke had told them as to what went on in that part of the country was entirely new to him, and he knew of nothing of the kind.

Lord MONTEAGLE of BRANDON believed that there was a good deal of that sort of thing going on in the South of Ireland. He thought the labourers required some protection, and that the County Court would be the better tribunal in the matter.

The Earl of MEATH said that so far as Leinster was concerned he had not heard of any intimidation of labourers, but he had heard of it with regard to the farmers and tenants. In his county the labourers were generally the majority of those who signed these papers. He sincerely hoped that the clause would be dropped, because it was one of the most dangerous clauses ever introduced into an Act of Parliament, and he foresaw great difficulties if it was introduced into an Irish Land Bill.

The Duke of ABERCORN contended that labourers were treated extremely well by district councils, and it was hardly possible to see a hill or a valley on which there were no labourers' cottages rising.

*The Earl of WESTMEATH considered that the Labourers Acts represented some of the most absurd and ridiculous legislation that stood upon the Statute-book. He hoped that none of these tinkering amendments would be accepted and that the clause would be dropped altogether.

Lord EMLY said he thought he had shown why the labourers were more or less intimidated when seeking cottages. All he could say was that he spoke with considerable knowledge of the subject of labourers, and that in his own county and also in the South of Ireland—and he said this emphatically because he had seen it—men were not only intimidated, but grossly intimidated, and they dare not apply for cottages. If some of them were plucky enough to do so they immediately lost their employment, and consequently some of them were compelled to go to the workhouse. He certainly pressed his Amendment.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: I think it would be better to decide on the matter as a whole. I certainly oppose the Amendment.

On Question that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 48; Not-Contents, 66.

CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Marlborough, D.

Northumberland, D.
Portland, D.
Wellington, D.

Ailesbury, M.

Lansdowne, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Belmore, E.

Cawdor, E.
Denbigh, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry*).
Hardwicke, E.
Howe, E.
Lytton, E.
Onslow, E.
Rosse, E.
Selborne, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller*]

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]

Powerscourt, V.

Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Belper, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Clanwilliam, L. (*E. Clanwilliam*
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
Ellenborough, L.
Erskine, L.
Estcourt, L.
Forester, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)

Lawrence, L.
Lyveden, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Monk Bretton, L.
Montagu of Beaulieu, L
Mount Stephen, L.
Robertson, L.
Rosmead, L.
Stalbridge, L.
Suffield, L.
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)
Ripon, M.

Abingdon, E.
Bandon, E.
Camperdown, E.
Crewe, E.
Dartrey, E.
de Montalt, E.
Drogheda, E.
Grey, E.
Morley, E.
Westmeath, E.

Gordon, V. (*E. Aberdeen*).
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Templetown, V.

Annaly, L.
Ardilaun, L.
Barrymore, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)

Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Castlemaine, L.
Castletown, L.
Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*)
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clonbrock, L.
Cloncurry, L.
Colchester, L.
Crofton, L.
Davey, L.
De Freyne, L.
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
Deramore, L.
Digby, L.
Dunalley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Emly, L. [*Teller*]
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Grey, de Ruthyn, L.
Grinstead, L. (*E. Enniskillen.*)
Inchiquin, L.
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.*)
Kilmaine, L.

Langford, L.
Leconfield, L.
Massy, L.
Methuen, L.
Monck, L. (*V. Monck.*)
Monteagle of Brandon, L. [*Teller.*]
Muskerry, L.
Newton, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough.*)
Rathdonnell, L.
Rathmore, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rossmore, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Sherborne, L.
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Stanmore, L.
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Tweedmouth, L.
Ventry, L.
Worlingham, L. (*E. Gosford.*)

Words inserted.

LORD EMLY proposed to insert in line 11, after the word "compensation" the words "against his employer," because, as the clause read at present, it did not exactly state against whom the compensation was to be recoverable.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 41, line 11, after the word 'compensation' to insert the words 'against his employer.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Does it follow that it was the employer who did anything to the labourer?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE was informed that the words were unnecessary, as compensation could only be given against the employer. Considering that they were going to take a division upon the whole clause he thought the best thing would be to accept the clause, as amended.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that they did not know that they were certain to reject the clause. He hoped they would do so, but supposing they did not, surely it would be better to have the clause in a good form than a bad one.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 41, line 13, to leave out the word 'Court' and insert the words 'County Court Judge.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 41, line 14, to leave out the word 'Court' and insert the words 'County Court Judge shall.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD EMLY moved an Amendment providing that the labourer should be entitled to six, instead of three months' wages as compensation, and that the costs of the proceedings against the employer and the notice and order thereon should be free of stamp duty. If an employer were found guilty, undoubtedly six months wages was not too severe a sentence, because the labourer was a poor man, and in some cases had absolutely nothing. He would then be brought with his family to the door of the workhouse. In these circumstances he did not think that six months' wages were exorbitant. The reason why he proposed that the proceedings should be free from all stamp duty was that the man was so poor that he desired to make the costs of proceedings in the County Court as small as possible.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 15, to leave out the word 'three' and insert the word 'six,' and after the word 'wages,' insert the words 'and costs of proceedings against his employer, and the notice and order thereon shall be free of stamp duty.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

*THE EARL OF CREWE appealed to the noble Lord not to press his Amendment if he desired to carry the clause as amended as a whole. He felt that the noble Lord would not be acting with great judgment if he attempted to press the Amendment on the House.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

LORD INCHIQUIN moved to leave out Clause 93. He need not go through the arguments against it, because he objected to it *in toto*, even with the Amendments which had been made. It was a most unjust thing that such powers should be given to an immense number of people. In his own particular case the clause might have the effect of rendering no less than 203 persons practically exempt from dismissal — a most unjust thing—unless the cause had been a very grave one. It was impossible to prove that a man was not dismissed because he had applied for a cottage. There might be a great many cases where the reasons were very good but they would not carry weight in any Court. He therefore moved the rejection of the clause.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 93."—(*Lord Inchiquin.*)

LORD CASTLETOWN hoped that the Amendment would not be pressed as it was one of those clauses which had better be left in the Bill.

On Question that Clause 93, as amended, stand part of the Bill their Lordships divided:—Contents, 44; Not-Contents, 68.

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Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

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Portland, D.
Wellington, D.

Ailesbury, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Ripon, M.
Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)

Abingdon, E.
Crewe, E.
Denbigh, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)

Grey, E.
Hardwicke, E
Howe, E.
Lytton, E.
Onslow, E.
Selborne, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]

Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Belper, L.
Castletown, L.
Davey, L.
Emly, L.
Erskine, L.
Kenyon, L.

Kintore, E. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Lurgan, L.
Monk Bretton, L.
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Mount Stephen, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rosmead, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Suffield, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L

NOT-CONTENTS.

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Northumberland, D.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)

Bandon, E.
Belmore, E.
Camperdown, E.
Cawdor, E.

Dartrey, E.
de Montalt, E
Drogheda, E.
Morley, E.

Rosse, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Powerscourt, V.
Templeton, V.

Annaly, L.
Ardilaun, L.
Barrymore, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Castlemaine, L.
Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*)
Cheylesmore, L.
Clanwilliam, L. (*E. Clanwilliam.*)
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clonbrock, L.
Cloncurry, L.
Colchester, L.
Crofton, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Freyne, L.
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
Deramore, L.
Digby, L.
Dunalley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Estcourt, L.
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne*)
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Forester, L.
Grey de Ruthyn. L.
Grinstead, L. (*E. Enniskillen.*)
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.*)
Kilmaine, L.
Langford, L.
Leconfield, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Massy, L.
Methuen, L.
Monck, L. (*V. Monck.*)
Muskerry, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough*)
Rathdonnell, L.
Rathmore, L.
Robertson, L.
Rossmore, L.
Sherborne, L.
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Stalbridge, L.
Stanmore, L.
Ventry, L.
Worlingham, L. (*E. Gosford.*)

Clause 94.

LORD EMLY said he had several Amendments to propose on Clause 94, but he wished to withdraw them in consequence of the promise of the noble Duke that the Labourers Acts would be considered at no remote date.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 19, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'hold a public and sworn inquiry, of which fourteen clear days' notice shall have been previously conspicuously given by means of notices posted on the police barrack and post office nearest to the said estate.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 21, after the word 'therefor,' to insert the words 'accommodation shall not be deemed sufficient unless there be a cottage and an acre plot to every fifty acres of such estate, and such cottages may be placed, and such acres selected on holdings not abutting on a public highway, and the Land Commission shall have power to make such provision for a right of way to such cottages as they may deem reasonable.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 23, to leave out from the word 'Ireland' to the word 'under' in line 25 and insert the words 'and shall be deemed a scheme formulated by the council of the rural district in which the land comprised in the scheme is situate.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 94 agreed to.

Clause 95.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 30, to leave out the words 'must either be' and insert the words 'is either.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 41, line 31, to leave out the word 'be' and insert the word 'is.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 95, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 96.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE proposed an Amendment to Clause 96, which he said was to secure that the rules under the general provisions of the Land Purchase Acts should be made by a majority of the Land Commission of which the Judicial Commissioner should be one.

Amendment moved—

"In page 42, line 6, to leave out from the word 'Commission' to the end of the paragraph, and insert the words 'in the manner directed by Sub-section 6 of Section 29 of the the Act of 1891. The expression "demesne" includes any mansion house or other buildings thereon: The expression "vesting order" includes fiat.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 42, line 34, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'or enactment,' and after the word 'amending' to insert the word 'applying.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to

Clause 96, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 97.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE moved an Amendment to Clause 97, the object of which he said was to secure to the tenant any sporting rights of which he was not at present in possession. The clause provided that "nothing in this Act shall affect (*a*) Any sporting rights, mineral rights, or water rights which are not in the possession or enjoyment of the vendor at the time of sale." As he explained last night, there were a certain number of cases—not many, but still a few—in which judicial rents had never been fixed, and in which under some old laws the tenant was in the enjoyment of sporting rights. It was quite fair that the tenant should not lose his rights. He should like to inquire of the Government what was meant by the word "vendor" appearing in the clause. If trustees were selling the estate, of course they would not be in possession of the sporting rights, as the owner for the time being under the Crown would be in possession of those rights. They would not bind a Judge, but he hoped that the word "vendor" would be taken to include the owner, although he did not think it would. It would be better to have some definition in the clause.

Amendment moved—

"In page 43, line 3, after the word 'vendor,' to insert the words 'or tenant.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said the Government were advised that the tenants' sporting rights were sufficiently dealt with under Clauses 13 and 16. With regard to the second Amendment proposed by the noble Earl, he believed he was right in saying that any rights which were under the existing law or under any other dispositions were already exempted from the operation of the Bill and would remain permanently exempted.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said if that was the opinion of the Government he did not wish to press the matter, but he should like to press for an answer to the Question regarding the meaning of the word "vendor," as it was most important. Under any settlement it might happen that the trustees would sell and be the vendors, but many would not be in the possession of any sporting rights. The person who held under the settlement would be in enjoyment of the sporting rights, but he would not be the vendor.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I cannot give a definition on a legal expression.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: Perhaps the noble Duke will deal with the point between now and the Report stage.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It has to do with sporting rights.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: It is a complementary clause.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: There is a new clause which will appear in the Bill on Report dealing with sporting rights. I think it is intended that the clause shall be reconsidered on Report, and the noble Lords will see whether it meets with their views.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 43, line 4, after the word 'sale,' to insert the words 'Provided that the foregoing provisions of this Act shall apply to any such rights upon the termination of any outstanding estate or interest therein, in the same manner as if such rights had been in the possession or enjoyment of the vendor at the time of sale.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 97 agreed to.

Clause 98 agreed to.

LORD MACNAGHTEN proposed an Amendment after Clause 98 to insert a new clause, which he said was another well-meant attempt on his part to afford assistance to the Lord Chancellor of Ireland. Under an earlier clause in the Bill advantage was taken of the experience of the President of the Incorporated Law Society in making rules, but those rules only applied to the work done by the

Estates Commissioners. As regarded rules relating to the general work of the Bill, the sales, purchases, and the distribution of the purchase money, in which he should think the help of an experienced solicitor would be most useful, there was no provision for obtaining his assistance. Of course his noble and learned friend knew what ought to be done much better than he did, but he submitted that it might be an advantage to make the President of the Incorporated Law Society a member of the Rule Committee. Originally the President of the Incorporated Law Society was not made a member of the Committee which settled the rules under the Judicature Act, but afterwards in 1897 it was found necessary or expedient to make him a member. A man who was a member of a rule-making body would be much more useful than a man who was only occasionally consulted, and who therefore was not in touch with what was going on.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 98 to insert as a new clause the words 'In the framing of any rules relating to legal procedure, and the remuneration of solicitors under the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act, the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland for the time being shall be associated with the Land Commission as a member of the rule-making authority.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he had nothing to say in the making of these rules, which were to be made by a very special rule-making authority, presided over by the Judicial Commissioner who was aided by all his colleagues. He did not feel it was any grievance that he was not a member of that body and he did not desire to become a member of it, because he was already a member of a quite sufficient number of rule-making authorities. All these rules came within the Publication of Rules Act and they would not come into force until they were published in the *Gazette* and circulated. It was quite competent for the Incorporated Law Society to make representations to the rule-making authority, and he was quite sure that such representations would be fully attended to.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said he was not suggesting that the President of the Incorporated Law Society would make any objection to the rules, but he should have thought that it would have facilitated the working of the Bill if an experienced solicitor were added to the rule-making authority, because he must know a great deal about sales, purchases, and the distribution of purchase money. He would not press the Motion if the Lord Chancellor for Ireland thought it was inadvisable.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: Best leave it alone when it was objected to.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 99 agreed to.

Clause 100 agreed to.

Clause 101 agreed to.

Schedule.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 44, line 21, after the first word 'three' to insert the words 'In Sub-section 1 of Section 34, from "a member" to "forestry" and the words 'the Chief Secretary when absent shall be replaced by the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Title, agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: In moving that the Standing Committee be negatived, it may be convenient that I should state when it is proposed to take the Report stage of the Irish Land Bill. The first business on Monday will be the Sugar Convention Bill, but I understand that it will not necessarily take a very long time, and, if possible, I should propose to proceed with the Report stage of the Irish Land Bill afterwards. It has been suggested that it might give us a better opportunity of getting through both these measures if the House were to meet at an earlier hour, and I should suggest that the House meet on Monday at 3 o'clock. In that case we can then take the Third Reading on Tuesday, THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: The proposal of the noble Duke is a very fair one, and I am quite ready to agree on behalf of my friends to the House meeting at 3 o'clock on Monday, and that the business should be as stated by the noble Duke, it being distinctly understood that the Sugar Convention Bill is taken first.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: Cannot arrangements be made for us to put down Amendments to-morrow for the Report stage

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Yes.

Standing Committee negatived.

The Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 201.)

House adjourned during pleasure; and resumed by the Earl of Morley.

ARTILLERY OFFICERS.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether Batteries Nos. 15, 27, 39, 47, 68, and 116 have two captains, instead of one major and one captain; and, if so, why six senior captains are not promoted to command.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (the Earl of HARDWICKE): I hope the noble Lord will be satisfied at this late hour with a brief statement. In reply to his Questions, the answer to the first part of his Question is that the batteries named have two captains instead of one major and one captain. This state of things is brought about by the operation of Article 26 of the Royal Warrant, which provides for the succession of majors, extra regimentally employed, by captains. The Royal Artillery Estimates provide for forty-eight majors to be employed on staff and extra regimental employments and to be succeeded by majors. But this number is frequently exceeded, and the excess have to be succeeded by captains. It is in reality a question of finance, as I explained to the House before on the Motion of the noble Lord, Lord Heneage. If captains appointed to take the place of majors were promoted, it would mean an increased charge, which at the present time Army funds are not able to meet. I may inform the noble Lord, as I have already stated in this House, that the question has been under the consideration of the military authorities, and that it is possible that during the coming year some alteration may be made in the existing system, No doubt from the point of view of military efficiency, it would be better to replace majors in such cases by the promotion of captains. I regret that I am unable to do more than say that the matter is under the consideration of the military authorities and the Secretary of State for War, and if anything can be done to lessen the dissatisfaction which at present exists, it will be done during the course of the coming year.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN said: I ask the patience of the House for a few minutes, while I try to explain the object of this Bill. In the first place I should like to say that the Bill is the result of a very careful consideration by the Committee of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, and it has received the careful consideration and almost unanimous support of the local Chambers of Agriculture throughout the country. It therefore claims rather more than passing attention at your Lordships' hands. The history of this Bill is very simple. Some ten years ago the first Bill was passed, but I am sorry to say that so far as those who have had to deal with it, practically, are concerned they consider the Bill to be a failure. Why has it been a failure? The first and primary cause has been this: that those who wanted to take samples for the purposes of analysis had to inform beforehand those from whom they were going to take the samples. This procedure illustrates the truth of the old proverb, "In vain do you spread the net in sight of the bird." Another reason that contributed to its failure was that there were a great many people who purchased food stuffs and fertilisers and who were on friendly terms with the vendors and sellers. They did not wish to appear as doubting the latter by asking that the stuffs they purchased should be analysed. Another reason for the failure is that this past Act has been worked under the most minute instructions of the Board of Agriculture, and rightly or wrongly, in consequence of that, the farmers have not been able to understand very well the practical working of the Act. A third reason for the failure of the Act is with regard to the invoices. According to the Act the invoices are to show the least quantity of ingredients present. The proposal in this Bill is that the invoices, which are to act as guarantees, should show exactly what is in the manure and especially in the feeding stuffs, which vary so very greatly. There is the further point that after no less than ten years' working of the Act it has been found that there has been practically no step taken to enforce the guarantee of ingredients that the invoices were supposed to give. One particular point which the Central Chamber Committee make is that they consider that feeding stuffs should be guaranteed and sold under the guarantee, which is not done at present. This Bill represents the outcome of the most careful consideration of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, which has been backed up by the local chambers, and I understand that the Government will not oppose the Second Reading of the Bill, provided that there is no objection to its being referred to a Committee which I understand has been appointed to consider the question. Without saying more I will appeal to the House to give the Bill a Second Reading in the hopes that the Government will see their way to accept it.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (The Earl of ONSLOW: My Lords, I am far from saying that the existing Act has been a great success. I am perfectly well aware that the provisions of that Act have not been made use of to anything like such an extent as was hoped by those who introduced it in the year 1889. I have, as the noble Lord is aware, appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the reasons why it has not been a greater success, and as to whether any Amendment or alteration can be made in the law which would enable it to be of greater benefit to the agricultural community. I do not wish to express any opinion upon the Bill which the noble Lord has introduced, but I am quite willing, if your Lordships think fit, to give it a Second Reading on the understanding that the noble Lord will not proceed further with it, but will let it be referred to a Committee, of which the noble Lord opposite [Lord Burghclere] has been good enough to consent to act as Chairman. I am sure the Committee under his presidency will give the matter every consideration. I hope the noble Lord will consent to let the Bill be read a second time but not proceed further with it.

Bill read 2ª (according to order).

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE), in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said: My Lords, at this hour of the night I would willingly spare your Lordships any speech on this subject, but it is so important, and the Bill covers such a wide field, and one item in it has been the subject of so much public interest, that it is not possible for me, consistently with my duty, to avoid making a statement. As regards the existing works contained in this Naval Works Bill, all I would report to your Lordships is that they are going on very satisfactorily, with the exception, perhaps, of the works at Simon's Bay, Cape Colony, where there has been a very unfortunate delay owing to the great difficulty in procuring labour. If any noble Lord wishes to ask a question as regards any of the existing works I shall be pleased to answer him, so far as lies in my power, in my reply. The principal feature of this Bill is that it is the last and final Bill of this series, so far as new items are concerned. Bills will be required in the future to supply additional money for finishing the works either now in progress or at this moment proposed to Parliament for authorisation, but in these future Bills no new items will henceforth be inserted. As regards the new items to which the assent of your Lordships is now asked I would draw attention to the various provisions for completing the equipment of the gunnery and torpedo schools at the three great home ports. The importance of that item will be obvious to your Lordships. An item which I really believe is of more consequence than any of the others, except the establishment of the new naval base in the Firth of Forth, is that item by which for the first time all our dockyards at home and abroad, and all our magazines, will be equipped with electric power and light. At the present moment, in the event of a naval war, when it might be necessary to work all night as well as all day in the dockyards, there is really no appliance to make it possible except such improvised illuminations as can be then secured. With a proper installation of electric light the work can be prosecuted by night as well as by day. In respect to the magazines it is quite obvious that the electric light is the only light under which they could be worked by night and day, and therefore the importance of equipping them with electric light is obvious. But the installation of electric light in the dockyards is even of greater importance. Unlike the new yards of great firms like those of Elswick and of Vickers, the dockyards have grown up during the course of generations and centuries, and the power consists of many different kinds all scattered and unconnected, and therefore uneconomical. By this installation of electric power, the power will be supplied in the most economical and efficient form in all the dockyards. Simultaneously with this proper equipment of the dockyards with power, it has been arranged to ask the House of Commons next year and the year after in the Annual Estimates, to pass a special Vote for bringing up all the dockyard machinery to date. A great deal of money has in recent years been expended on the dockyard machinery, but much of that machinery is of such a character that any modern and up-to-date employer of labour would certainly discard it. I have asked the Treasury to seize this moment to put all the machinery in proper order, and the Treasury have agreed, and, subject to the approval of the House of Commons, the money will be provided in the Estimates next year and the year after.

Next I will pass to those new items which affect the efficiency of the dockyards and the provision of sufficient accommodation there. It is proposed to turn the small yard at Sheerness into one mainly, if not exclusively, reserved for the repair of destroyers. The great works which we are commencing at Chatham and Rosyth—the name given to the new base in the Firth of Forth—have been rendered necessary by the expansion of the Fleet. These new basins and works are required at Chatham, and the anchorage in the Firth of Forth is required, simply because otherwise, in a few years, there will be no place in which to stow His Majesty's ships. This question was exhaustively examined by the Special Committee on the Berthing of the Navy, the Report of which has been presented and laid before both Houses of Parliament. Therefore I pass to the subject of the new naval base. The original necessity for the establishment of that base was, as I have said, simply one of want of room. Granted that more room was required for the expansion of the Fleet, the question of site became of cardinal importance, and that site was chosen as combining in all respects the requirements of the Navy — requirements which were industrial, economical, and strategic. I do not think the policy of establishing a naval base in the North of these islands and on the East coast will require any defence from me. But while the policy of the establishment of this base has been very generally approved by the country, much criticism has been passed on the price that has been paid for it. That is a subject on which, I think, the House of Commons ought to be exceedingly careful and even jealous that the Government of the day should be economical and wise in the price that they pay, and therefore not only do I not resent but I welcome the criticism that has been passed, and I welcome it all the more because I think I shall be able to show your Lordships that, being very conscious of my responsibility in the matter, I have made what may fairly be called a good bargain for the country.

The criticism has been that the vendors have received more money than they ought to have received. I submit that is not the point. The point is whether the Board of Admiralty have secured the site as cheaply as they possibly could do so for the country under any process known to law. That the two things are not quite the same I think I shall be able to show you very shortly. I maintain that although the vendors certainly have no reason to complain of the price they have received, we have acquired this land cheaper than we could have done by any other possible course. What happened? We asked the vendors what price they required for their land. Of course they naturally said they did not want to sell; but they understood that this was a great national object and that compulsion was in the background, and therefore they did not raise that objection. But a price was named by the valuers to the vendor which I could not for one moment accept. Therefore I endeavoured to get the best valuer who could be employed on behalf of the Admiralty. He made a valuation, and the price which we have paid is practically our own valuer's valuation with the addition of about £9,000. The point I have to make is that I could not possibly have got this land for the country any cheaper than the price named by our own valuer, plus £9,000. What has been the result in the first place? We have acquired 1,600 acres of land and foreshore for £122,500, or an average of £76 per acre without the minerals. The minerals reserved are coal and shale, and not rock or granite or the more surface type of minerals which are included in the purchase. Let us examine that price for a moment from the point of view of the State. Three per cent. on the purchase price represents a sum of £3,675 a year. If we are able to feu only 200 acres of the 1,600 at the very moderate price of £20 an acre, the State will at once have a revenue of £4,000 a year, or a larger sum than 3 per cent. on the purchase price. But £20 an acre for feuing is undoubtedly a moderate rate to name, because, I am informed, that only within the last few days land actually adjoining that purchased by the State has been feued at the rate of £50 an acre. In addition to this there are very large stone quarries, the stone of which is at the present moment being exported for the building of our docks in the South of England, and this stone will henceforth belong to the country, and the country will be able to sell it or utilise it for the construction of its own docks. I will go back for one moment. In taking the 1,600 acres we had a deliberate economic policy in view. What has hitherto happened in respect to all our dockyards? The Government has begun by taking a comparatively small piece of land and establishing a base or dockyard there. All the land around it has at once increased manifold in value, and the whole of the unearned increment has gone to private proprietors and not to the State which has given the value. Whenever the State has required to buy more land for the expansion of the establishment, it has been compelled to pay enormous sums. In this case the Board of Admiralty determined to buy a large area so that as much of the increased value as possible would accrue to the State and not to private individuals. Therefore we have left to the private individuals, from whom we bought this land, no prospect of an unearned increment which the State may create.

Let us compare the price we have paid for this land with the price of land sold for corresponding purposes in the same part of Scotland. In the year 1890, or thirteen years ago, the town of Kirkcaldy bought ninety-five acres, without any water frontage, a little lower down the Forth, and paid £150 an acre for it. The Edinburgh Water Trust has bought some agricultural land some miles from Edinburgh at over £400 an acre. I find that, taking all the water-work sites in Scotland, and averaging, the price paid for the land, which is always purely agricultural, and mainly moorland, was £55 an acre or 147 years purchase of the average rental of the land purchased. Such have been similar purchases in that part of Scotland. But what has been our experience in the Admiralty and the experience of the War Office in these matters? If we had not accepted a bargain which was the valuation of our own valuer, plus £9,000, what course would have been open to us? We could have put into force the compulsory powers under the Defence Act or the Military Lands Act. But what has been our experience in this matter? Our experience is that the very first thing an arbitrator asks is what is the valuation of your own valuer, but does he ever in the final award give anything like the valuation of your own valuer? I will give you some figures which are more eloquent than any arguments I could use. The Admiralty had occasion to purchase some land at Upnor compulsorily under the Defence Act. The vendor asked £8,000; the Admiralty valuer valued it at £5,500; the arbitrator awarded £15,000. The costs to the Admiralty were £3,700 in addition, and the time occupied in closing the transaction was seventeen months. At Deal the Admiralty also required some land. The vendor first of all asked £8,000, but before we put the compulsory powers into force he lowered his demand to £6,000. The Admiralty valuer put the value at £1,800. The arbitrator awarded £7,600, the costs to the Admiralty was £1,750, and the time occupied was nine months. I now pass to the experience of the War Office. There was at Woking a case under the Military Lands Act, where the vendor asked £6,500 for some land. I would ask your particular attention to this fact, that the price named by the vendor at the commencement of a transaction such as this is without prejudice, that is to say, that if the vendor asks one price of the Admiralty or the War Office and they do not accept, and they go before an arbitrator, the vendor can ask any price he likes of the arbitrator. This one is a very remarkable case in point. For these lands at Woking the vendor asked for £6,500 from the War Office, but before the arbitrator the vendor asked for £26,400. The War Office valuer valued the land at £5,500 and the award was £6,800, the costs to the War Office were £560, the time occupied being fifteen months. At Dover the War Office wanted some land. The vendor asked £85,000, the War Office valuer valued it at £12,000; the arbitrator awarded £21,800, and the costs incurred by the War Office amounted to £2,120, the time occupied being twenty months. At Broughty Ferry the War Office also required to have some land and the vendor asked for it £23,500. The War Office valuer valued it at £3,500, and the award was £9,300, while the War Office were mulcted in costs to the amount of £5,000, the time occupied being five months. Our universal experience of compulsion is this; that the arbitrator asks the value put upon it by your own valuer, he then asks the vendor what value he puts on it, and the award of the arbitrator is always between the two, generally a great deal nearer the price of the vendor than the value put on it by the public valuer, while in addition there is always a heavy bill of costs and a great waste of time in closing the transaction. I believe absolutely that if we had not closed for the sum named by our own valuer plus £9,000, and if we had gone before an arbitrator, the country would have had to pay a much larger sum, certainly if experience is any guide in the matter, very much more. We should also have run up a heavy bill of costs, and the time occupied would have extended over many months. As it is, we are practically getting the land at the value put upon it by our own valuer. We have contracted no bills of costs, or practically none, and we get the land at once. This is my defence, and I venture to think it is a strong one.

I can only say that my sole object all through has been to get the land as cheaply as I could for the public, and in deciding on the course I had to take I was bound to be guided by experience in this matter, and by the advice of those in the locality who knew what the conditions of the sale of land in that part of Scotland were. I have only one further word to say, and that is as to the future of this naval base. The Board of Admiralty have purposely not attempted as yet to sketch to Parliament what they believe will be the final requirements of the country at that station. All we claim to have done is to have provided in the cheapest and fullest way possible for the expansion in the future which we foresee. A naval base may be one of two things. It may be a naval base pure and simple, where there are depôts of men, ammunition and stores, and where ships can lie and be docked, or you can have a great manufacturing establishment known by the name of a dockyard. The two conditions are not necessarily connected, but neither are they incompatible. I do not say as yet, because I do not know, how far in the direction of a dockyard it will be necessary for the country to go, but that it will be necessary to establish a great naval base there in the first sense is certain.

Whether it will be necessary to make it a dockyard of the same type as at Portsmouth I am not prepared as yet to express an opinion. All I can say is that I have been greatly impressed by my experience at the Admiralty with the view, in which I think my predecessors will not differ from me, that there are very grave disadvantages as well as advantages in the State being a manufacturer, and that the indefinite enlargement of the employment of labour by the State is attended with serious drawbacks. Wherever it is possible for the private trade of the country to adequately and fully meet the purely manufacturing requirements of the State I am of opinion that it is to the advantage of the State not to increase its already very large manufacturing establishments. But I am not yet prepared to say how far it will be possible at Rosyth to maintain the base only in the first category I have mentioned. All I claim at present for it is that in the expansion of the Fleet it must play a great part, that, strategically, it is important, and last, but not least, I shall rejoice greatly if it brings Scotland into a closer touch with the Navy. At present, all the home of the Navy being in the South, necessarily naval matters and naval life are not in that close touch with the Scottish people that I hope they will be in the future, and therefore I should rejoice greatly if the interest of Scotland in naval matters grows, and more Scotsmen are seen in the naval service of His Majesty. I beg to move.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I regret very much that my noble friend, Earl Spencer, was not able to be present here to-night, and I am sure your Lordships will sympathise with my noble friend, because his absence is owing to a renewal of that anxiety which has been so very present to him during the last few weeks. I should have liked him to be here, because this is a subject in which he has taken the keenest interest, a subject on which he is thoroughly well informed, and his criticisms and remarks would have been a value to your Lordships and the country generally. I may say this, that so far as this new naval base at Rosyth is concerned, my noble friend is not altogether convinced of its wisdom. He is doubtful both as to the desirability of multiplying naval bases, and not altogether satisfied with regard to the particular place that has been chosen from a strategical point of view. I am bound to confess for my own part, being a Scotsman, that the station at Rosyth does commend itself to me from both a sentimental and a practical point of view. I quite agree with the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty that I should very much like to see Scotland brought more closely into touch with the Navy, and I should also be glad that, if good things in the way of employment and works in connection with the naval base are going, Scotland, and especially the South of Scotland, should come in for a part of them. With regard to the purchase price paid for Rosyth, let me at once dissociate myself from those who have brought forward charges of *mala fides* and jobbery. I do not think we need talk about them here, for I would not for one moment suggest that anything of the sort were possible, much less probable. But the First Lord of the Admiralty in his statement proved very clearly that both the War Office and the Admiralty were in the habit of paying very excessive prices for the land that they got. I think his arguments went to show that enormous prices were charged to the spending Departments by private individuals when land was required, rather than to show that this particular purchase had been a very economical one.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: All I said was that I believed we got this land as cheaply as it was possible to do under any process known to the law.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I do not know that processes known to the law are apt to be very cheap. One ought to have consideration when it comes to a question of purchase of land as to what price the private individual would have paid in similar circumstances. We should remember that the estate at Rosyth is not close to any great town. The cases of Kirkcaldy and Edinburgh and Broughty Ferry are all very different so far as situation is concerned from that of Rosyth, in that they are closer to great centres of population.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I would remind my noble friend that in those cases neither of them have water frontages. If he ever adorns the position of First Lord of the Admiralty he will find that water frontages are most expensive.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: With regard to the price paid at Rosyth the Government have acquired 1,400 acres of land.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: No, no! it is 1,600 acres.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I have it 1,100 acres of land and 300 acres of foreshore, but I accept the noble Lord's figures. At any rate this land is mostly agricultural. I understand that the land was let at the rate of 22s. 2d. an acre before the Navy came into the offing as a purchaser. The price paid altogether was £122,500, and that works out at about £84 an acre.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: No; it averaged £76 an acre.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I will not quarrel about that. The noble Lord's subordinate, the Civil Lord of the Admiralty, in the other House stated that this land had a genuine value of £40 an acre. £40 an acre is not a bad price for land that is rented at 22s. 2d. per acre. It was further stated that it was the habit in Scotland to pay 50 per cent. more for compulsory purchase. That 50 per cent. for compulsory purchase seems a large sum, but if you add 50 per cent. for compulsory purchase to £40 per acre, which is the genuine value, you arrive at the price of £60 an acre. I think that, for land fetching 22s. 2d. per acre, £60 per acre was a very fine price, even if it had been bought compulsorily. The difference between £60 and £76 is £16, and even on the basis of 50 per cent. for compulsory purchase there is £16 an acre above what might be considered to be a very full price for this land. Besides all this land is going to be valuable, because we are going to feu it. I hope there will be feuing on the land, and that the Admiralty will get the benefit of it, but that is not a fair question to consider when arriving at the price to be paid to the vendor. If the Admiralty did not go there to make a naval station, there would have been no value for feuing at all, because the value of feuing would arise from the use the land was going to be put to by the Admiralty. The vendor has no right to be paid for that now.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: Will the noble Lord say that the land would never have had a feuing value?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Certainly not.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: That is not the opinion of everybody.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: It certainly has no feuing value at the present time. What I want to insist on is whether, or not, the Admiralty and the War Office have been forced to pay high prices for land in the past, that even though that be the case, and that in comparison with those transactions this one is not so extravagant, I maintain that it is an extravagant sum to have paid, and one which I cannot congratulate the Admiralty on having been obliged to pay. I make no charge of any sort against the Admiralty or anybody else in the matter, all I say is that the figures show clearly to my mind that a very much larger sum was paid than would have been paid by any private individual.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: May I ask the noble Lord if in all the circumstances of the case and our experience of the past he would have gone for compulsory arbitration.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: That is a question for the Admiralty. I am only in the position of a critic, and I think I have proved my case, that a very high price was paid for this land. That is the only point I wish to make.

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD BELPER: I regret that I have to ask your Lordships to read this Bill a second time at such a late period of the evening, but I think that I need not trouble you with many remarks, because I believe the principle of the Bill is approved widely and by Members sitting on both sides of the House. That principle is to give some powers of control and regulation over the hours of labour of children—wage-earning children who also have to attend school, and those whose case is not met under the Factories Act or the Mines Act or Acts of that sort. A good deal of attention has been called to this matter, and two years ago a Committee was appointed by Mr. Ritchie, who was then the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to inquire into the whole question. They made a very careful and searching inquiry and took a large amount of evidence. I would state shortly that their Report showed that a very large number of children indeed were employed in different trades and that many of them were employed for an excessive number of hours, which had a serious effect on them, being both injurious to their health and an interference with their education. At the same time I should state that that Committee came to the conclusion that the employment and conditions of employment were so very various and that the circumstances, in places where these children were employed, differed so largely, that they could not recommend that there should be any general statutory powers to prohibit such employment. Nor for the same reason could they see their way to even recommending any definite number of hours which should be imposed as the proper number of hours that such children should work. In these circumstances, the provisions of the Bill, which are founded very much on the recommendations of the Committee's Report, are that powers should be given to the different local authorities in the county for regulating the conditions under which children should be employed. These powers are shown in the first clause of the Bill; they define the age below which employment is illegal, the hours in which they should be employed and the number of daily or weekly hours. The local authorities are also given powers of absolutely prohibiting employment or of permitting employment subject to certain conditions.

In addition to this clause there is a special clause which deals with street trading. Trading in the street was one of the matters to which the Committee turned special attention. They found in a large number of cases there were children, who, in addition to going to school, were occupied an excessive number of hours in different sorts of trading in the streets. It is obvious that for certain children, especially for girls, that sort of employment is of rather an injurious character, both to their morals, and, in some cases, to their health. In other cases they found there were a large number of children who, owing to the conditions under which they worked, could do so without injury to health; they seemed to be happy and contented, and in no way was their education affected. With regard to this particular street trading your Lordships will see that there are some rather stringent regulations which have been introduced into the Bill, although there were some other more stringent regulations still which were altered during their progress through the other House. No child under the age of eleven years is allowed to be employed in street trading at all. In addition to that it is pointed out that the local authority may make by-laws, having special regard to the desirability of preventing the employment of girls under sixteen in streets or public places.

I do not think at this hour I need allude more particularly to other parts of the Bill. I should, perhaps, mention that the local authorities who are defined to carry out the Bill are the County Councils, councils of boroughs of over 10,000 population, and urban councils of over 20,000 population. I wish to refer particularly to that point because there has been some opposition in the other House with regard to the authorities. It has been suggested that urban district councils and rural district councils would be more fitting authorities to carry out the principles of the Bill than the County Councils and borough councils. I do not think you will agree with that view, which was rejected by a considerable majority in the other House.

I will not trouble you with many grounds, but I may say this, that the County Councils have a full opportunity of knowing the special conditions in the different parts of their county, and even in the small burghs and urban districts. What is of much more importance is that they are now the educational authority, and have to make by-laws with regard to education and employment of children in agricultural and other pursuits under the Education Act. It would make great confusions if another authority were given the power of making by-laws in a matter quite akin to that. I hope I may be excused from mentioning other points until the Bill goes into Committee on Monday. I think your Lordships will see that the discretion which is given to local authorities will ensure that, before passing any regulations prohibiting this employment of labour in their districts, they will be influenced by the knowledge of the circumstances of each case. Probably, therefore, in making these regulations they will be carrying out the sentiments of the people amongst whom these children live, and they will be much more likely to make their regulations acceptable and get them carried out than if general prohibitions were made applicable. I beg to move.

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

IRELAND DEVELOPMENT GRANT BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, this Bill in its present form was passed by the other House without any opposition. It is in reality a money Bill, which I suppose places it beyond the scope of criticism in your Lordships' House. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

Bill read 2ª (according to order): Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

GRIEVANCES OF RESERVE OFFICERS.

LORD ROSMEAD: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War with reference to the statement made by him in this House in answer to my Question on the 5th May, 1903†:—(1) Whether the Committee therein referred to has made its report. (2) Whether there is any truth in the rumour now prevalent to the effect that the Committee in question has not gone into the grievances of the senior (pensioned) officers of the Reserve, but confined itself to amending the regulations with a view to preventing grievances in the future. My Lords, I must apologise for rising to ask this Question at this time of the evening, but I venture to think that the matter is one of importance. My Lords, the Question related to a matter which I brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government in your Lordship's House on the 5th May last. As I then pointed out to your Lordships, there has been a regrettable disparity in the financial treatment of the two classes of Reserve officers who were called up for service during the late war; those who had retired with a pension having their pension suspended while mobilised, whereas those who had retired with a gratuity continued to enjoy that gratuity, and at the same time received the full pay of their rank during mobilisation without any reduction whatever. It was stated on the occasion in question by the noble Earl the Under Secretary of State for War that some grievances and inequalities had existed, and did at the time continue to exist, amongst the Reserve officers, and that the reason why the gratuity Reserve officers continued to receive their Army pay in full was because the noble Marquess who was Secretary of State for War at the time the Reserve officers were called up for service considered, and very rightly so, that any such deduction would not be "altogether fair." But, my Lords, on the contrary, pensions continued to be mercilessly suspended. The noble Earl further informed your Lordships at that time, that the present Secretary of State for War had recently appointed a Committee which was enquiring into the "whole subject" of the Reserve officers, as he, the Secretary for State for War, thought that there were special cases where "some redress" might be necessary. After these remarks by the Under Secretary of State for War, I naturally withdrew my Motion. My object, my Lords, in asking the present Question, is to ascertain what steps have been taken in order to redress the obvious grievances complained of. There is, I may add, a very strong rumour prevalent, and I trust an erroneous one, to the effect that the Committee referred to by the noble Earl, which the Secretary of State for War had appointed to inquire into the "whole subject" of the Reserve officers, has confined itself exculsively to amending the regulations, in order to prevent any future grievances, and has not in any way inquired into the grievances of the past; as such a course would be most obviously unfair to those officers who had so ably come forward to serve their country at a time when they were particularly needed. I am glad to afford the noble Earl a favourable opportunity for giving his official contradiction to such a rumour.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxii., 279.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (the Earl of HARDWICKE): My Lords, I will not take any exception to the statement made by the noble Lord, with regard to the debate on this question, which took place on a former occasion, but I can hardly agree with him that this is a favourable opportunity to give me of explaining the matters referred to in his Question. It is perfectly true that the inequalities to which the noble Lord referred have existed, and I am sorry to say that a great many complaints have been made by officers who were re-employed for service during the South African War, with regard to the suspension of their pensions. But I am afraid that I must ask the House to allow me to read the statement that I made with reference to the Committee, to which the second part of the noble Lord's Question refers. On the 11th May 1903, I stated that—"Not every officer who has been re-employed has a grievance, but there are special cases in which the Secretary of State for War thinks that some redress may be necessary. For that reason my right hon. friend has recently appointed a Committee which is inquiring into the whole subject; and if, on the Report of the Committee, he is able to see his way to put forward proposals for the consideration of the Treasury, he will do so."

I will now answer the first part of the Question put to me. The Committee has not yet presented its Report, but I am informed that the Report will be completed shortly. As to the second part of the Question I am sorry that the noble Lord did not give me any intimation as to the source from which this rumour came or where he came across it, because it is not, strictly speaking, correct to say that the Committee has not inquired into the question of the grievances of Reserve officers re-employed in South Africa. I would refer to the date of the Question that the noble Lord addressed to me, the 11th of May, 1903. The Committee had then just commenced its deliberations, and I was not aware then, nor am I really aware at this moment, whether on the particular point, referred to, the Committee had come to any decision. I have consulted the chairman of the Committee and he informs me that early in the deliberations of the Committee they decided that having regard to the fact that no Reserve officers re-employed in South Africa had been treated otherwise than under the existing regulations, with which all Reserve officers should have been fully acquainted, they would be unable, much as they sympathised with the feeling of officers whose re-employment had caused them financial hardship, to recommend the idea of redressing the grievances of any particular officer. The Committee then proceeded to consider the question of the future and when their Report is presented, which I said would be in the course of a few days, I am given to understand that the Report will contain recommendations calculated to avoid any of the grievances, with which the noble Lord so justly sympathises, arising in the future. I will not detain the House any longer and I hope the noble Lord will be satisfied with the short statement I have given. I could go into detail, but as far as the Committee is concerned I am given to understand that they are unable to redress any of the grievances.

*VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: I hope the Report will be in the hands of the public.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I cannot promise that.

*VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: I suggest that the noble Lord should draw attention to the subject again.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I shall be very pleased for him to do so.

LORD ROSMEAD: I can only say I am not satisfied with the answer I have received.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without Amendment, Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

BRITISH CONSUL-GENERAL IN CRETE.

LORD NEWTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the post of British Consul-General in Crete is about to become vacant; whether it is intended to appoint a gentleman unconnected with the Consular Service; and whether the corps of Student Interpreters for the Ottoman Dominions is not maintained for the express purpose of providing Consular Officers for the Levant. Like all my brother speakers I think I ought to apologise for inflicting any observations on the House at the present moment. I think the proceedings this evening are an example of our folly in allowing the greater portion of our work to be compressed within the closing weeks of the session. With regard to my Question, it is necessary for me to explain that about twenty years ago, at the instigation of the present Lord Currie, with the object of getting rid of untrustworthy Levantines who were employed as go-betweens between ambassadors and Oriental Governments, and who acted as British representatives in Consular ports, it was found desirable to establish a special branch of the Consular Service which consisted of young men who passed severe examinations in this country, and who underwent a special Oriental education with a view to eventually filling Consular posts in the Levant and the Near East, it being understood that, whenever vacant, these posts should be reserved for the men who had qualified themselves to fill them. That system has worked very well, and I regret that Lord Cromer is not present here to-night, for I am certain he would corroborate my statement. Many of the posts to which these men are appointed are extremely undesirable, one reason for that being because they are usually unhealthy resorts, and not infrequently dangerous resorts, because of the fanaticism of the inhabitants. One of the best paid posts is that of British Consul-General in Crete, shortly about to become vacant, and to which I am informed the noble Marquess intends to appoint a gentleman who is not connected with the consular service in any form or capacity. There is a certain humour in the proceedings of my noble friend because only a short time ago he appointed a Committee which included three members of His Majesty's Government, to inquire into and report upon the Consular Service, and I observe that this Committee, in their Report, state that their chief objection to it at the present moment is that there is no definite prospect of promotion for those who enter it, for men new to the service may be given appointments over the heads of others who have been there years before them. This is a disadvantage pointed out by the noble Marquess's own Committee, and his Under-Secretary made a high-sounding declaration that a new era was going to dawn for the Consular service and that these grievances would shortly be removed. I think I am wholly justified in saying that there is a certain appearance of humour about the action of the noble Marquess in this matter.

As for the gentleman who is, I understand, selected for this position, he is a Mr. Howard. He may be a most estimable person in private life but I cannot discover in him any particular qualifications for the post. He was apparently for some years in the Diplomatic Service; he entered the service in the year 1885, and resigned in 1890; therefore the country enjoyed his services during about five years, which were spent at the two posts of Rome and Berlin. In fact, his experience is very much the same as that of my own and that of the Under-Secretary of State for War, and upon the whole I should think that our qualifications are about equal to those of the gentleman in question, except that he would be wanting in the doubtful qualification of Parliamentary experience. I understand that the noble

Marquess contends that the post requires a Diplomatic representative instead of a Consular officer. I should like to point out that this is an untenable proposition, because His Majesty's Government are pledged to maintain the *status quo* in the Near East, and they cannot possibly wish to encourage Prince George, who is the High Commissioner in Crete at the present moment, to play the part of an independent prince by accrediting a Diplomatic representative to him, for to do that might have the effect of throwing him off his balance altogether. Abnormal importance is sometimes attached to changes of this nature, consequently there cannot be any real reason for appointing a genuine Diplomatist, because the Consuls to whom I have alluded, in the ordinary course of their duty, discharge diplomatic and political work even more than commercial work. The noble Marquess will agree that in Armenia or Macedonia the work is more political than commercial. To me it is evident that every one of these men who occupies the post of Consul-General in Crete is capable of performing the diplomatic duties which fall to his share. The noble Marquess has aggravated this offence, in my opinion, by appointing a man who definitely left the service several years ago, and by this means a double hardship is inflicted; on the Consular Service, because a post is withdrawn from them, and on the Diplomatic Service because an outsider is introduced to it, who takes precedence of everybody below him, and thus checks promotion. I have always consistently opposed allowing men who have once resigned commissions being allowed to return. If a man goes, let him go altogether, and if he is employed again, let it be temporarily. If I thought Mr. Howard was only to be employed for a short time I should not offer any objection, but from experience there is every probability that he will remain in the service and eventually rise to higher rank. I should like to add that the administration of the noble Marquess at the Foreign Office has always been marked by so much fairness, justice, and courtesy to subordinates that I am reluctant to criticise his action, but I feel strongly that this particular appointment, although it may seem a trivial thing in itself, will cause much discouragement and disappointment amongst a body of men specially selected for a special profession, which, owing to various causes, slow promotion being one of them, has already lost much of its popularity.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The post of British Consul-General in Crete has been recently filled by the appointment of a gentleman who was formerly a member of the Diplomatic Service. It is quite true that the Student Interpreter Service is maintained for the purpose of providing Consular Officers for the Levant, but the Secretary of State reserves to himself, and I think must always reserve to himself, the power, as with the Diplomatic Service, to recommend to the King for appointment to posts in the Consular Service any persons whose selection would, in his opinion, be of advantage to the interests of the public service, and appropriate to the special requirements of the post. The noble Lord who takes an intelligent interest in foreign affairs, is perfectly well aware that the conditions which prevail in the Island of Crete at the present moment are of a very exceptional character. In view of these conditions I am satisfied that no more suitable selection could have been made for the vacant appointment than that of Mr. Howard. The noble Lord dwelt upon the disappointment which he thought would be occasioned to the Consular Service by the selection of a gentleman who did not belong to their ranks. I cannot help thinking, however, that if Mr. Howard's selection has provoked feelings of this kind the balance has to some extent at any rate been redressed by the appointment of a member of the Levant Consular Service to be Consul-General at Tabreez. I may add that all the Consular posts in Persia, dependent on the Foreign Office, are in future to be filled, as a general rule, from the Levant Consular Service, which hitherto has not been the practice. The noble Lord was shocked at the introduction into the Consular Service of a former member of the Diplomatic Service. It is not a practice which is habitually resorted to, but it is not without precedent. His Majesty's present Ambassador at Paris, who retired from the Diplomatic Service as a Second Secretary, subsequently received a Consular appointment. I do not make any apology for the selection of Mr. Howard for this particular post, although I quite admit that appointments of this kind should not be made unless there is reason for doing so.

LORD NEWTON: The noble Marquess has not given any information that the gentleman is qualified for the post. His own Committee strongly deprecate this using patronage unless it is absolutely necessary in special circumstances. I submit that the noble Marquess has not made out any case for this particular appointment because—

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): On a point of order, my Lords, the noble Lord, after asking a Question, has no reply.

LORD NEWTON: I have noticed that the practice is frequently followed. Perhaps by the indulgence of the House I may be permitted to say that the equivalent pointed out by the noble Marquess is not really an equivalent because the post in Crete is one, of more posts, reserved for the Consuls in question.

ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL BILL.

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.

Third Reading (which stood appointed for yesterday) put off to Monday next.

POOR LAW (DISSOLUTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND ADJUSTMENTS) BILL.

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

MARINE STORE DEALERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Read 3ª (according to order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered on Monday next in order to its being suspended for the remainder of the session.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before One o'clock, a.m. to Monday next, Three o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday 7th August, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Cork Harbour Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Erith Tramways and Improvement Bill; Great Central Railway Bill; North Eastern Railway Bill; Sheffield Corporation Bill; South Yorkshire Joint Railways Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Bradford Corporation Bill [Lords]; Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

North-Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [Lords]. To be read the third time upon Monday next.

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords]. A verbal Amendment made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Salford Corporation Bill [Lords] (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 220 and 246, relating to Private Bills, be suspended for the remainder of the session.

That as regards Private Bills to be returned by the House of Lords with Amendments such Amendments, (if unopposed) be considered forthwith.

That as regards Private Bills to be returned by the House of Lords with Amendments such Amendments (if opposed) shall be considered at such times as the Chairman of Ways and Means may determine.

That when it is intended to propose any Amendments thereto, a copy of such Amendments shall be deposited in the Private Bill Office, and notice given on the day on which the Bill shall have been returned from the Lords.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That Standing Orders 211 and 236 be suspended, and that the Committee of Selection have leave to appoint the Committee on the Bill, to sit and proceed on Tuesday 11th August.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Wick and Pulteney Harbours Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill, Coventry Electric Tramways Bill, Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill, now — Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway Bill, with Amendments.

Amendment to Amendments to— East Ham Improvement Bill, without Amendment.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 321.]

TRADE (BRITISH COLONIES WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th August; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 322.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Copy presented, of Thirty-second Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1902–3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.)

Copy presented, of Annual Report on the Distribution of Grants for Agricultural Education and Research in the year 1902–3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CANADA.

Copy presented, of Address to His Majesty on Irish Affairs from the House of Commons of Canada, and the Reply thereto [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 392 (St. Helena, Annual Report for 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

Ordered, That the several Accounts and Papers which have been presented to the House in this session of Parliament relating to the Revenues of India be referred to the consideration of a Committee of the whole House.—(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

Resolved, That this House will, upon Thursday next, resolve itself into the said Committee.—(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

RAND MINES (NATIVE MORTALITY).

Address for "Return of the Statistics of Mortality, Sickness and Desertion amongst the natives employed in the Rand Mines during the period October, 1902 to March, 1903."—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT).

Return ordered, "showing according to the accounts for the twelve months preceding the 31st day of March, 1903, furnished to the Local Government Board under Section 1 (7) of the London (Equalisation of Rates) Act, 1894; (1) The amounts paid during the year out of the Equalisation Fund under the Act to the Corporation of the City of London and each of the Councils of Metropolitan Boroughs to whom payments out of that fund were made ; (2) The amount of the expenses incurred during the year by each of these authorities (a) under the Public Health (London) Act 1891 (including expenses of scavenging streets) ; (b) in respect of lighting ; and (c) in respect of streets (other than the expenses of scavenging) ; and (3) The amount expended during the year by each such authority out of the sums received by them under the Act (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 301, of session 1902)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT, 1902–3.

Return ordered, "showing, in respect of the financial year ended the 31st day of March, 1903, the distribution of the proceeds of the Local Taxation Licences, Estate Duty, and Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Duties paid into the Local Taxation Account in pursuance of the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1888, the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, and The Finance Act, 1894 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 274, of session, 1902)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

DUTIES ON BRITISH GOODS (FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Order [24th April, 1902] for Return relative thereto read, and discharged.—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Marine Insurance Law Consolidation Bill.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) : To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware of the desire of the shipping and commercial community that the Marine Insurance law Consolidation Bill shall become law this session ; and, if so, whether he will take such steps as may be necessary to secure this end.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) I have seen the documents which contain the evidence of the widespread desire on the part of the mercantile community that this Bill should become law. Personally, I should be most glad to see it pass. But the Bill is a long one ; it is full of detail, and as opposition has been threatened, and is, indeed, certain, I cannot entertain much hope that the necessary time for its passage can be found.

Regulations as to the Importation of Dogs.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) : To ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that the character of the regulations as to the importation of dogs imposed by the Board eighteen months ago has led to considerable smuggling of dogs into this country, and has thus increased rather than lessened the risk of the introduction of rabies ; and whether, having regard to the replies of the President of the Board of Agriculture to Questions on the 26th November and 4th December, 1902,† to the effect that there have been only two instances of rabies in dogs imported, and that these cases had been promptly reported by the owners under the previous regulations, he will consider the advisability of reverting to the previous regulations, with such modifications as experience has shown to be advisable.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) Detailed inquiry is now being made by the Customs authorities as to the allegation that a considerable number of dogs are being smuggled into this country. The results of this inquiry will be available very shortly, and we shall then be in a position to determine whether any further amendment of the regulations is requisite, in order to prevent the risk of the re-introduction of rabies into Great Britain. I may add that the regulations to which the hon. Member refers were extensively contravened at every point, and that their administration was attended with a maximum of friction and difficulty. It was on these grounds that the late President of the Board decided to issue the Order now in force.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxv., 497 and 1302.

Pay of Dockyard Joiners.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether any decision has now been arrived at with regard to the petition affecting the pay of joiners in His Majesty's Dockyards, presented in October of last year.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) I must beg to refer my hon. friend to my reply to a Question on this subject asked by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, which was circulated with the Votes yesterday.†

Cost and Plans of Proposed Extension of British Museum.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): To ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, what is the total estimated cost of the proposed extension of the British Museum, towards which £150,000 is allocated in the Public Buildings Extension Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The total estimated cost is £200,000, of which £50,000 will, as stated in the note to the schedule of the Bill, be provided out of funds bequeathed to the trustees.

LORD BALCARRES: To ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commisioner of Works, if any plans have been prepared for the proposed extension of the British Museum; and, if so, by what architect.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) Sketch plans have been prepared by the principal architect of the Office of Works for an extension of the Museum by the erection of a new block in Montague Place. The designs have been prepared to accord with the architecture and arrangements of the existing buildings. The First Commissioner will undertake to have the plans exhibited in the Tea Room on Monday next, the 10th.

Model of Proposed National Memorial to Queen Victoria.

LORD BALCARRES: To ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if it is proposed to exhibit a model of the national memorial to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The First Commissioner is informed that the model has been made for the use of the architect and sculptor, and that there is no intention to exhibit it publicly; but that, when the model is placed next October in a convenient place, Members will be allowed an opportunity of seeing it.

Rates paid by Railway Companies to Local Authorities.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the total aggregate amount of rates paid to local authorities by the railway companies of the United Kingdom in each of the years 1882, 1892, and 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The Returns furnished to the Board of Trade by the Railway Companies do not distinguish rates and taxes separately. The total amount of rates and taxes included in these Returns for the year 1882 was £1,773,634, for 1892 £2,368,558, and for 1902 £4,227,593.

Irish Postal Order Department.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can explain why there is a special postal order branch of the General Post Office in London dealing exclusively with postal order work, while there is not a corresponding special postal order branch in Dublin for Irish postal order work; why the Accountant in Dublin deals with the Irish total issues and payments, as they affect each postmaster's cash account, only to the same extent that the Controller and Accountant General's Department in London deals with English total issues and payments; and why the details of Irish postal order work are mainly dealt with at the postal order branch in London.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) As I explained to the hon. Member on the 1st ultimo,† for the sake of simplicity of working, all postal orders in the United Kingdom are issued from and returned to London, where the detailed work in connection with the orders must consequently take place.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxvi., 1585.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1028.

Irish Non-voted Accounts.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, if he will state the names of the Irish non-voted accounts which are paid for out of Irish moneys, not out of Imperial funds, and which are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General in London, and the amount paid out of these Irish moneys to the Comptroller and Auditor-General for auditing each of these accounts; and whether, having regard to the fact that this Irish money is at present spent in London, arrangements will be made to have the accounts audited in Dublin so that this Irish money may be spent in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) All the amounts paid out of Irish moneys for the audit of Irish non-voted accounts are £100 and £180 for the audit respectively of the Intermediate Education and Irish Church Temporalities Accounts. The audit is partly carried out in Dublin, and it is not considered desirable to make any change in the present arrangements.

Grant to Scottish National Gallery.

SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow College): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether, in view of the fact that the Committee on the Board of Manufactures has been unable to present its Report in time for consideration this session, he will take steps to prevent the National Gallery, Scotland, from losing during the present financial year the benefit of the promise of a grant for the purchase of pictures made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 26th June 1902.†

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) It will be possible to ask Parliament for a grant for the National Gallery of Scotland in respect of the current financial year if, on consideration of the Committee's Report, it shall appear that the conditions laid down by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer are satisfactorily fulfilled.

Central Telegraph Office, London—Meal Reliefs.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Postmaster-General, whether the alteration of the regulations concerning meal reliefs for telegraphists, that on all continuous duties of eight hours, day or night, thirty minutes for meal relief are to be granted, is to be applied to the Central Telegraph Office, London; and, if so, whether he will state when the new arrangements will come into operation at this office.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) A notification has been issued to the staff of the Central Telegraph Office explaining the modifications which have been made in the rules relating to meal reliefs so far as they affect that office. If any member of the staff requires further information he should apply to the Controller.

Rynn and Black River Drainage, County Leitrim.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the area of charge for the Rynn and Black River, County Leitrim, drainage; and whether, seeing that most of the drainage works were done on Colonel Clements' estate, can he state whether the whole of Colonel Clements' estate is liable for the tax, and will he also explain why the area of charge has been reduced and state what area has benefited by the reduction.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The area of charge in the Rynn and Black River Drainage District is 4,695 acres, 2 roods, and 20 perches. In 1859 drainage works were carried out on the estates of thirty-eight proprietors, the lands of each of whom became liable for repayment of the loan advanced, namely, £15,000, in proportion to the benefits derived by the lands. The loan has been repaid. In 1894 the Board carried out works of maintenance under the Drainage Maintenance Act, 1866, and Colonel Clements became liable in respect of his improved lands in the district for about one-sixth of the Board's charge at foot of advances for those works, which came to £2,713. If Colonel Clements has lands outside the drainage district they would not be subject to the charge. The area of charge has at no time been reduced.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cx., 213.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that money was borrowed for the Rynn and Black River drainage in County Leitrim, prior to 1889, he will say if those tenants who purchased their holdings in 1889 and 1890, are to be charged with the repayment of a sum their consent to borrow which was not asked; and whether he will give particulars as to the nature of the levies made in respect of these loans, the sum realised, and state whether the person who superintends the drainage is the collector of the drainage tax.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The only loan advanced by the Board of Works in respect of this drainage district, prior to 1889, was the sum of £15,000, referred to in my answer to the hon. Member's preceding Question. Repayment of this loan was completed in 1881. A sum of £2,713 was advanced by the Board in 1894 as the cost of putting the district in order under the Drainage Maintenance Act, 1866. The last instalment of this advance will fall due in 1905. This is the only advance for which the present proprietors are liable; it was made for works of repair executed by the Board under their compulsory powers, and the consent of the proprietors was not necessary. The sum annually leviable on foot of this advance is £301. The principal realised to the present date is £2,024. The maintenance rate is collected for the trustees of the drainage district, but by whom I have no official information.

Education of Tamil Children in Ceylon.

Sir MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N. E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware of the absence of provision for the primary education of the children of the large Tamil population employed on tea estates in Ceylon; and, if so, whether he will urge on the Government of that island the desirability of establishing schools for their benefit.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) The attention of the Governor of Ceylon has already been called to the subject of the hon. Member's Question, and I am awaiting his report.

Transfer of Aden from India Office to Foreign Office.

Sir MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the contemplated transfer of Aden from the Government of India to the Foreign Office has been further considered; and, if so, whether any decision has been arrived at.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) At the present time I can only say that the proposal is still under the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. E. T. Hooley.

Mr. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Bradshaw *v.* Kelly, tried before Mr. Justice Darling at the Royal Courts of Justice on 6th August, and to the statement of the learned Judge that the proceedings of Mr. E. T. Hooley in this case were fraudulent, that every document in the case was a fraud, and that from the inception of the proceedings there had been nothing but fraud; and, if so, whether he intends to advise the Public Prosecutor to commence criminal proceedings against the person or persons who have committed these frauds.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) I have asked the Director of Public Prosecutions to make inquiries as to this case.

Mr. MARKHAM: To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Moore v. Hooley, tried before Mr. Justice Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice on 5th August, and to the statement of the learned Judge that he did not believe a word of the evidence given on oath by a Mr. E. T. Hooley, an uncertificated bankrupt; and, if so, whether he intends to advise the public prosecutor to commence proceedings for perjury against this man.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) I have asked the Director of Public Prosecutions to inquire into this case.

MOTOR-CARS BILL [LORDS].

(Considered in Committee.)

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

***Mr. CHAIRMAN**: The first Amendment on the Paper standing in the name of the hon. Member for Coventry ought to be moved as a new clause.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) said that for the convenience of the Committee he wished to state that he had considered the suggestion contained in the Amendment of his hon. friend, and having regard to the fact that a great deal of what they were doing must necessarily be of a somewhat speculative character, he wished to announce that he should be prepared in the proper place to accept an Amendment to that effect.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said the object of the Amendment which he had to move was to make it clear that if the owner was on the car when the driver contravened any of the regulations of this Act, that the owner should be liable as well as the driver. In the other House a somewhat similar Amendment was moved, and it was stated by the Lord Chancellor that it was unnecessary, because under the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1895 any person who aided and abetted would be equally liable with the driver. It seemed to him, however, that that objection was unreasonable, because if the owner was already liable it could do no harm to make him liable under this Act. He thought it was advisable to put all the penalties and clauses into one Act, so that there would be no confusion as to whether any person came under this Act or not. Justices of the peace might overlook the Summary Jurisdiction Act, and in order to make the law perfectly clear he thought this Amendment should be inserted. Under the Summary Jurisdiction Act they would have to prove that the owner himself aided and abetted, and that would be a very difficult matter. He trusted that his right hon. friend would be able to accept this Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 5, after the word 'drives, to insert the words 'or being an owner permits when present.'"—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG said they all agreed that the person chiefly responsible for the offence should be himself liable to the penalties, but this was not the result which would follow from the adoption of this Amendment. The hon. Baronet had correctly stated what took place in the House of Lords, but there would be very great danger if the words he had proposed were inserted that the effect would be to limit the law which now existed. The hon. Baronet had only stated the effect in the case where the owner was in the car, but there was another case which, in his humble opinion, was even more deserving of punishment than the one to which he referred. Take the case of an owner who wished his car to meet a train at the station, and told his driver to catch the train at any cost. Under the law he would be guilty of aiding and abetting, but, if the words now suggested were put in, there would be a very considerable risk of the liability not extending to the owner when he was not in the car. If the owner aided and abetted an offence, they wished to make him guilty of an offence, and he had been advised by the law officers that this Amendment would rather weaken than strengthen the law upon this point.

Mr. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said that surely the contention of the right hon. Gentleman pointed to the withdrawal of the words "when present." those words were omitted the Amendment would at once cover the case mentioned by the President of the Local Government Board.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) said he should like to have the words "when present" inserted, in order that the presence of the owner should be necessary to make him criminally liable.

MR. WALLACE (Perth) agreed that the omission of the words "when present" would be an improvement. If the owner permitted a breach of the Act he should be made responsible. He did not think there would be any opposition offered to this proposal.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he was quite willing to amend the Amendment by leaving out the words "when present."

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) did not think the words "when present" should be omitted. Were they going to make the owner liable for permitting dangerous driving when he did not happen to be in the car himself, and knew nothing at all about it? He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not accept this Amendment.

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) said the President of the Local Government Board had given a conclusive answer to the Amendment. Permission was a form of abetting, and under the law any person who aided and abetted was equally liable to the principal offender, and the law as it stood was quite as strong as it would be by the insertion of these words. He could not conceive a case in which it could be shown that the owner, whether present or absent, would not be liable just the same as the driver.

* MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said they all agreed that if an owner permitted intentionally a breach of the law he ought to be made liable. If the words "when present" were to remain, he would ask whether the case could not be met by adding to the Amendment the words "or if absent, intentionally or knowingly permits." It seemed to him that those words would cover any case of the owner either ordering the driver to go at an excessive speed in his absence or of permitting the offence when he was present.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) thought they would only get into greater difficulties if they added the words which had been suggested by the hon. Member for Westminster. The law as to aiding and abetting quite met the case.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2 to leave out the words 'when present.'"

Amendment to proposed Amendment agreed to.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 37; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 239).

AYES.

Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hick
Brigg, John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Farrell, James Patrick
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Joyce, Michael
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lundon, W.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
Randles, John S.
Rigg, Richard
Robinson, Brooke
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Shackleton, David James
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Spear, John Ward
Sullivan, Donal
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Wallace

NOES.

Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r.*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Broadhurst, Henry
Bull, William James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Cochrane, Hon. Thomas H. A. E.

Coghill, Douglas Harry
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Dalziel, James Henry
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E
Elibank, Master of
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Horner, Frederick William
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*)
Kimber, Henry
Labouchere, Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks, N.R.*)
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol S.*
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott-(*Hants.*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Paulton, James Mellor
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs*)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hn Sir William H.
Walton, John Lawson (*Leeds, S.*
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) hoped it would be convenient to take the discussion now on his Amendment proposing a speed limit of fifteen miles an hour.

MR. WALTER LONG said it would be inconvenient from the point of view of the hon. Member and those who desired a speed limit to take this Amendment at the present stage. He thought they were all agreed on the Second Reading that if a speed limit was introduced into the Bill it should not form part of that portion which carried with it the penalty of imprisonment. He had himself put down an Amendment that raised the question in a precise form and dealt also with the question of penalties. It would be more convenient if the Committee postponed the discussion of the question of a speed limit until he moved that Amendment.

MR. BROADHURST said he was willing to agree to that if the suggestion would meet the convenience of the Committee.

MR. DALZIEL moved to leave out "recklessly or negligently, or" in line 6. He had placed this Amendment on the Paper with a view of obtaining from the President of the Local Government Board a definition of the words he proposed to leave out. It seemed to him that it would be exceedingly difficult for these words to be defined, more especially in view of the fact that in nine cases out of ten it would be the local policeman who would have to interpret what was reckless or negligent. A stronger reason why the words should be left out was that they were unnecessary. If they were left out anyone driving to the danger of the public would still be liable to all the penalties provided in the Bill. Surely a person driving dangerously was driving recklessly and negligently. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'recklessly or negligently, or.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped the hon. Gentleman would not think it necessary to press the Amendment. It had been extremely difficult to frame this clause so as to carry out what they all desired. Speaking for the Government, he said that what they desired was that they should not do anything which would be unjust to people who owned motor-cars, but at the same time they had felt that the present condition of things made it absolutely necessary to legislate for the protection of the public. It was not only life and limb, but the general convenience of the public that should be safeguarded, and the proposals in the Bill were framed in order that it should be part of the duty of those using motor-cars to obviate as far as possible any discomfort to other people who had a right to use the road. There could be no doubt that the leaving out of the words in the Amendment would very much weaken the clause, and would not carry with it that protection the public had a right to have. The user of a motor-car ought to realise as he went along that he must use the road in a way consistent with the general convenience of others who used it. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would withdraw the Amendment.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket) said he did not think that many Members of the Committee had much objection to the clause as it stood. There was an important point to which he wished to call attention—namely, that the whole of this clause was very stringent. They hoped that later on the President of the Local Government Board would see his way to give a more easy and effective kind of appeal than was provided for under the Bill as it stood. Otherwise he thought the clause would operate very unjustly.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ALLHUSEN (Hackney, Central) moved to leave out "or at a speed" in line 6. It would be generally agreed, now that the right hon. Gentleman considered a speed limit desirable, that they should omit these words. He was very much afraid that if they were left to be interpreted by the magistrates, any speed in excess of the speed limit would be regarded as reckless and careless driving. He wished to make it clear to the magistrate that there were two separate offences in the Bill, one being reckless driving and the other exceeding the speed limit. With regard to the first offence motorists were agreed that very heavy penalties should be imposed, but the second offence, which might be a mere technical infraction of the law regarding the speed limit, was one which hardly called for the same punishment.

MR. WALTER LONG said his hon. friend was under a misapprehension. His argument was not applicable to this portion of the Bill.

MR. ALLHUSEN said he did not quite agree with that. There was not the slightest doubt that there was a disposition on the part of magistrates and the public to regard mere speed as dangerous, and he thought it was necessary to make it quite clear that driving in excess of the speed limit did not necessarily constitute reckless driving. He was afraid that the magistrates would say that the speed limit fixed by the Bill was the safe speed laid down by Parliament, and that a mile or two in excess of it was not a safe speed, because Parliament had limited the speed to a certain number of miles per hour. He thought motorists should have some protection against the prejudices which certain benches of magistrates had already exhibited, and he had not the slightest doubt that a motorist for driving at thirty miles an hour--assuming the speed limit to be fixed at twenty-five—would not only be convicted of exceeding the speed limit, but also of reckless and careless driving, if these words were left in.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words, 'or at a speed.'"—(*Mr. Allhusen.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped his hon. friend would not press the Amendment. He was under a complete misapprehension as to the effect of inserting these words in the clause. What the Government proposed would not materially alter the existing law, but collect the law from existing statutes and Local Government Board regulations into Sub-section 1 of the clause in order to make it as clear as they could make it, that apart altogether from the speed limit, whether it was twelve or 120 miles an hour, there was a totally different offence—namely, reckless and negligent driving. If they took these words out of the clause they would weaken the law as it now stood.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said that the effect of the Amendment would be to wreck the Bill. The danger of a speed limit was that a man would never be convicted of furious driving so long as he kept within the maximum limit.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) said he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment which did not repeal any right that the public had under the common law, but would rather strengthen the common law.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest) said that the whole of this clause was very stringent, and he hoped the President of the Local Government Board would see his way to give some more easy and effective power of appeal than there was in the Bill as it stood.

MR. ALLHUSEN said that after the expression of opinion that had been given by the Committee he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave withdrawn.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) said that it was very difficult for a magistrate to say what amount of traffic "might be expected to be on the highway" at any particular time. He therefore moved the omission of the words in the sub-section of Clause 1, "And to the amount of traffic which actually at the time, or which might be expected to be on the highway."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out from the word 'highway' to the word 'that,' in line 10." (*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said it was rather curious that this Amendment had been put down on the Paper by opposing sides on this Bill; and that both those who desired to protect the rights of motorists and those who claimed to protect the public, objected to these words. The insertion of these words, however, was due to the decision in a case of "Mayhew *v.* Sutton" which was to the effect that the driver of a motor-car must not only have regard to the amount of traffic he saw on the road, but to what might reasonably be expected to come on to the road from cross roads, leading into it, or out of lodge gates.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said that he heartily supported the Amendment. It was the most absurd thing in the world to give a magistrate power to say what traffic might be expected on the highway.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) said he hoped that his right hon. friend would accept this Amendment, because it was very undesirable that vague terms should be used in this Act.

MR. WALLACE said that the magistrates might forget one important circumstance, and that was the condition of the highway. Although the previous words might be sufficient, it would be safer to leave these words in also. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would stand by the words in the clause. Nobody could be prejudiced by these words.

MR. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock,) said that suppose a farmer opened his gate to let his cattle cross the road; such a possibility as that ought to be kept in view by those making use of motor-cars.

MR. DALZIEL said he hoped the President of the Local Government Board would keep an open mind on this Amendment. There was not a road in the whole country which had not another road turning into it. What they appeared to be doing was setting traps in order that motorists might be caught. They might as well call this Bill at once a Motor-car Abolition Bill. It was iniquitous when a road was clear that a man might be summoned because, under circumstances not defined, there might be traffic in the road which was then clear. He never heard of such words being put into any Bill, and he thought it was absolutely preposterous. He hoped the House would not be prejudiced to such an extent that it would be impossible for people to have motors at all. He sincerely hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln) said as he had put down an Amendment lower down in order to raise this discussion, might he point out to those who were pressing so hard for the retention of these words that the real thing that caused all the difficulty was the extremely heavy penalty for the first offence. A man was liable to be sent to prison. For that reason it was extremely awkward to have a lot of loose, ambiguous words put into the clause. The President of the Local Government Board was right in his endeavour to make this perfectly clear to the public, that they were to be protected, but he submitted that the real way out of the difficulty was to take it out of the power of the magistrate to send to prison for the first offence, and make imprisonment the penalty for the second offence, so as to give people time to find out what the opinion of the magistrate was as to reckless driving. These were a lot of new words, and nobody knew what these particular words might be held to mean, or what style of speed and driving might be held to be covered by the words. The real way out of the difficulty would be to take these words out of the clause, and give up the attempt to enforce such a heavy penalty in the first instance, having regard to the fact that some of the magistrates were hostile to motoring.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said no one would wish to restrict unnecessarily a very important branch of industry, and to repeat the mistakes committed in other Bills; but on the other hand the personal safety of the public had to have equal consideration. It seemed to him that on the whole these words ought to be retained. It was said that previous words covered these heads. That might be so. The additional words were simply suggestive to the bench of a consideration which under no circumstances ought to be lost sight of. There was one particular reason for the inclusion of these words, and that was that the whole of the public were entitled to the use of the roads at law, and there might be places that were particularly dangerous. If that was so, they ought to be relieved of the terrible anxiety they were under about motor-cars at points of danger, and therefore additional caution should be imposed on the drivers of motor-cars.

MR. LAWSON WALTON said the argument of the hon. member for Islington, although supposed to be in favour of the Amendment, was fatal to it, for the reason that he was trying to make these vague words explicit. The Committee had already passed words which were as vague as they could be "that they should have regard to all the circumstances." These words covered all the cases *in esse* and *in posse*, and if the extension stopped there they would have loose, vague, and ambiguous language, which would have this two-fold effect. It might mislead the magistrates, and would mislead the public.

MR. SEELY said he objected to the latter half.

MR. LAWSON WALTON said the magistrate had to determine whether a motor was being driven recklessly or negligently or at a pace that seemed to him to be reckless. There was a general principle of law that loose and ambiguous language should be avoided, because the tribunal called upon to interpret an Act could have no idea of the intentions of Parliament when passing it, and because the public did not know what they had to do under the Act. If it was stated explicitly that the motorist was to have regard to the actual traffic in the road and the possibility of traffic arising the matter was made clear. For these reasons he trusted the right hon. Gentleman would not oppose the Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) pointed out that Clause 8 proposed the erection of signposts by the County Councils at dangerous places, and suggested the erection of warning signals also at avenues and by-roads. He thought the words were vague and that it was not an unreasonable thing to ask County Councils, at dangerous corners to put up notices that the motorist should slow down.

MR. RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth) opposed the Amendment. He said many of the country roads were very narrow, and a speed which was quite safe on the average road might be very unsafe in such roads. It might be reckless to go at even fifteen miles an hour in some of these narrow lanes. He had received notice of a case, which occurred in his constituency, where one of his constituents was driving down a road which was only seventeen feet wide from hedge to hedge, and only thirteen feet wide when three feet was allowed for each ditch. A motor-car which was seven feet wide was coming the other way; there was no room for the horse and trap to pass and there was the inevitable spill. He thought these words strengthened the Bill, and made the matter quite clear, and gave the confidence that the users of the road should receive that consideration from the motorists which they had a right to expect.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich) said although he did not like motor-cars at all he was glad a Bill had been brought in to deal with them. He thought those words were a little ambiguous. What this Bill was trying to prevent in this matter was giving a loophole to persecution. He thought the clause was quite strong enough and that if prosecutions were taken under this clause, with these words, in motorists would be turned into martyrs.

MR. BRIGG said the object he had in putting down the Amendment which stood in his name was to make the clause more simple and to give greater control over motor-cars on public highways and to give the magistrates greater latitude and discretion in this matter. But as the feeling of the Committee was in favour of the principle that the safety must be had regard to it would not be necessary to press the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DALZIEL said he had been asked by the hon. Member for Louth to move the Amendment which he had previously suggested. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to see his way to accept it. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'must,' to insert the words 'having regard to the provisions of Section 8.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG pointed out that this language had been used in this Bill in order to make clear what the law was, because it had been said that the interpretation by the Courts of the words in the regulations did not appear to be conveyed by those words. This language had been put into this Bill in order that that, which was now the law by the definitions of the High Court, should not only remain the law but that it should be clearly shown in the statute that the interpretation placed upon it by the Lord Chief Justice was justified by the language in the Bill. It was in the interest, therefore, of those who used the roads. The suggested Amendment would destroy this section altogether. Clause 8 proposed a different thing altogether. Clause 8 proposed that in specially dangerous places the local authorities should mark them as being specially dangerous. This section was to deal with the general conditions of the road under other circumstances. He could not accept the Amendment.

MR. KENNETH BALFOUR (Christchurch) suggested that if the right hon. Gentleman could not accept the Amendment he might accept the word "reasonably." He thought the words suggested by the hon. Member for Louth would be better, but if the right hon. Gentleman could not accept the Amendment he would suggest that he should accept the word "reasonably."

MR. DALZIEL said the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman were no answer to the Amendment, and therefore he would be compelled to take the feeling of the Committee on the matter. What was the objection to County Councils being compelled to put up posts at dangerous places.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrewshire, W.) said the proposal of the hon. Gentleman the Member for Louth to put up a post at every dangerous point would result in every farm gate having a post put up against it. That would inflict an intolerable burden on the County Council.

MR. BAYLEY said that the non-erection of a post by the County Council might result in this—a motorist could go at any space he liked, and it would be contended by him in case of an accident that as there was no danger-signal the pace was not dangerous. This Amendment would remove all that.

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU said this was a matter upon which the motorist felt very strongly. He suggested that if the President of the Local Government Board would insert the word "reasonably" before "expected" it might be accepted.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said there was a good deal to be said against the right hon. Gentleman's contention. First of all they had to deal with the fact that the man was a stranger. He came to a strange place, saw the road clear and thought it was all right. He had never been in the place before, but the bench considered this a dangerous spot. He came into a district which, in the opinion of the magistrate, was an infected area. Surely it was not unreasonable to suggest to tourists that certain places were dangerous, and that a motorist should not go more than so many miles an hour. A man ought certainly be warned before he could be sent to gaol. Was human liberty in England such a small thing that for the sake of a half-crown gatepost they were going to send a man to gaol for a month. If so he was glad he was not an Englishman.

Mr. WALTER LONG said the hon. Gentleman appeared to have forgotten that the liberty and very often the lives of the people who used the roads was at stake. The hon. Gentleman had put the identical case in which he wished to protect the people and to insure that the utmost precautions should be taken by motorists, who did not know where these places might be. If these words were necessary, then to assent to the Amendment suggested would limit the clause in such a manner as to make it perfectly worthless. If on the other hand every spot had to be marked it would be placing work upon County Councils which no County Council could, would, or ought to be asked to do. The hon. Member for the New Forest Division of Hampshire had asked him to accept the word "reasonably." If it was understood that if he accepted the word "reasonably" all discussion upon this particular point would be determined he would accept the word as a compromise. If it was not so understood, and the discussion was to go on indefinitely, of course he could not accept it.

Mr. DALZIEL having regard to the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'might,' to insert the word 'reasonably.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montague.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. SEELY pointed out that, after all, motor-cars had as much right to the use of the roads as any people who used horses. Many people thought motor-cars were purely a luxury for the rich, and that the people who drove them deserved no consideration whatever, but the drivers of these cars were working men, mechanics, who, although they were receiving good wages no doubt had as much right to protection as anybody else. The idea that people who drove and rode on the roads were never guilty of any carelessness or recklessness was not altogether borne out by the facts. Everybody knew what a large number of accidents occurred to horse-drawn vehicles, and every body was satisfied with the penalties imposed in those cases. He had put down the Amendment which stood in his name because he could not see why special rules and regulations should be attached to motoring, which carried special penalties. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out the words, 'this Act,' and insert the words, 'the Highway Act, 1835.'"—(*Mr. Seely.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG said he hoped this Amendment would not be pressed, because it was not difficult to realise that if it were carried they would entirely destroy that part of the Bill which emphasised the gravity of the offence which necessitated the imposition of these penalties. Everybody knew that while the great bulk of motor-car drivers had done their best to be reasonable, there were some who disobeyed the law openly, paid their fines time after time and did not care. Those persons must be taught to obey the law. He could not accept the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. WALTER LONG said he rose to move the Amendment standing in his name. He moved it in redemption of the promise he had given to the House on the second reading of the Bill. He then undertook to bring up in Committee an Amendment which should impose a distinct limit of speed, and which should also indicate that where that limit was exceeded the penalty should not be the penalty of Section 1, namely, imprisonment, but a fine. Speaking generally, he believed that was the compromise arrived at, and he now endeavoured to redeem his promise by the Amendment he now moved. A great many gentlemen approached this question as if they thought a speed of twenty-five miles would mean the average speed during a journey. He believed, however, it would not be unfair to assume that taken over an ordinary journey, whatever the maximum, the average speed would be little more than half—that was to say, if the maximum was to be taken at twenty-five, the average speed under existing conditions, and still more under the new conditions, would not exceed half the maximum. He asked the Committee to approach this question from a common-sense point of view. He did not think it was desirable to set the limit so low as to make it almost impossible for the driver to keep within it. Having regard to the fact that they were giving the public protection in the matter of car registration and the licensing of drivers, was it unreasonable to put the maximum limit of speed at a mileage which would enable the car to travel an average journey. He did not think it was. He also did not think it was desirable to set the limit so low as to make it almost impossible for the driver to keep within it. Another point for consideration had reference to those persons who broke the law with regard to the speed limit, but who should not be liable to imprisonment. Those who objected to this portion of the Amendment apparently did not realise what the effect of the Bill would be. There was first of all a statutory declaration that a certain speed limit should not be exceeded; but, if a driver drove not merely at a greater rate than this, but at any rate up to the maximum so as to endanger the lives and the limbs of the general public, he was liable to the full penalties provided in the Bill, and came under the operation of Section 1. Only in cases where the limit was exceeded without there being any risk to the public would the lesser penalty be imposed. He asked the Committee to accept this Amendment as a compromise on a most difficult question. On the Report stage he would ask permission to incorporate this sub-section in Clause 7, because he wished to see the two classes of offences kept quite distinct.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, at end to insert the words, '(2) A person shall not under any circumstances drive a motor-car at a speed exceeding twenty-five miles an hour, and if any person acts in contravention of this provision he shall be liable on summary conviction in respect of the first offence to a fine not exceeding £10, and in respect of the second offence to a fine not exceeding £20, and in respect of any subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding £50.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT thought it necessary to insert in the first line after "car," the words "on a public highway."

MR. WALTER LONG: I agree to it. I will move it in that form.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) objected to the insertion of the words, "on a public highway." The Royal Parks were not public highways, and protection was certainly needed in the Phœnix Park, Dublin, against reckless drivers.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said his suggestion was that the sub-section should read, "A person shall not under any circumstances drive a motor-car 'on a public highway' at a speed exceeding twenty-five miles an hour." He argued that some qualification of this kind was needed in the interest of industrial progress, otherwise people would not be at liberty to test the speeds of motor-cars even on a private trial ground. Without these qualifying words also the manufacturers of this country would be unable to compete with foreign competitors, and the sub-section would be subversive of all trade interests.

Amendment amended by inserting in line 1, after the word "car" the words "on a public highway."—(*Sir Albert Rollit*)

MR. BROADHURST said that in moving to reduce the speed limit to fifteen miles he would not detain the Committee at any length, for the question had been fully argued on the Second Reading. They desired to get the Bill through if possible, and he for one was not an opponent of motors as such. He was, indeed, in favour of using them in bounds of reason, and not to the alarm and danger of the public using the highways. Even fifteen miles was a great speed to travel on a public highway and twenty-five miles in his judgment was far too high. Such a high limit would involve all the dangers they now ran from the reckless driving of these machines from the nether regions. He did not know if many hon. Members had seen how these high-speed motors on the highway caused alarm, consternation and dismay in the minds of inoffensive people who be it remembered had as much right to use the roads as the motorist. He had been personally inconvenienced; he had been in danger, and he felt very strongly that in the public interest the speed should be limited. Fifteen miles was sufficiently high, and any one going at a greater rate could not enjoy the beauties of the scenery. All they experienced was a maddening sensation of rushing through the air careless of the comfort and pleasure of other people. Unfortunately, motor-car owners and drivers were most unreasonable, and by their very unreason had made this legislation essential. He appealed to the House to protect the rights of the citizens, and not allow them to be taken away in the interests of one section. The Bill would not unduly interfere with trade. It was not the manufacturers who wanted the high-speed regulation; it was only the selfish pleasure seeker who wanted to be allowed to rush all over the country, and to dash through the narrow streets of our villages oblivious of the safety of the hundreds of thousands of children whose sole playground was the roadway. He hoped that the House by a substantial majority would reduce the speed limit to fifteen miles.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"In line 2, to leave out the words 'twenty-five' and insert the word 'fifteen.'"—(*Mr. Broadhurst.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'twenty-five' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he had an Amendment on the Paper to fix twenty miles per hour as the speed limit, and he thought that was a more reasonable suggestion than the proposal now before the Committee. The Bill was very necessary, but he recognised that if it was to be carried some compromise would have to be made. He hoped twenty would be inserted instead of fifteen, and that the representatives of the motor interest would accept that as a compromise. ("No.")

MAJOR JAMESON said that many of the criticisms of the hon. Member for Leicester arose from ignorance of the motor-car itself. In the recent public trials at Glasgow it had been proved that a motor-car going at twenty-five miles an hour could be brought to a standstill within a distance of fifteen feet, whereas a horse and cart travelling at only eight miles an hour could not be pulled up in less than three times that distance. No motorist averaged twenty miles an hour over a whole tour; the idea was absurd. There were cases in which five miles an hour would be too great a speed, and the man who went at five miles an hour when there was danger ought to be punished, rather than the man who travelled at thirty miles an hour when there was no danger. All these alarms were raised simply because Members had not taken the trouble to study the question. If thirty miles an hour was fixed as the limit it would probably be found that the average speed of a journey would not exceed fifteen miles an hour. The penalties were out of all reason, and twenty-five miles far too low a limit. Throughout the whole year there had not been a single fatal accident in the Metropolis, and yet it was proposed so to penalise this pursuit as to take away from it all pleasure and enjoyment.

Mr. CRIPPS said the larger question was altogether outside this discussion as it had been decided that a speed limit should be imposed; the only point was whether or not twenty-five miles an hour was a fair limit. No one desired to deal unfairly with motorists, but the question had to be asked whether in view of the manner in which the roads were used by children, pedestrians, and persons riding or driving, it was right to allow a four-ton vehicle to be driven along those roads at twenty-five miles an hour. In his opinion it was most certainly not. It was a question not of the average, but of the maximim speed; the average had nothing to do with the matter. The issue was a simple one, and having tried to arrive at a fair conclusion, he agreed with the hon. Member for Peckham that a limit of twenty miles an hour would protect the road traffic, and not in any way press unduly on the motorists. The ruling consideration was, that nobody, whether motorist or otherwise, ought to use the roads either to the danger or the inconvenience of the general public.

Mr. WALLACE understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that he had fixed the limit of twenty-five miles, having regard to the average over the hour. If, however, he was disturbed by a vehicle rushing by at the rate of thirty or forty miles an hour, it would be no consolation to him to be told that the rate for the previous three-quarters of an hour had been only six miles an hour. He was a supporter of the fifteen mile limit, but if there was a general disposition on the part of the House to accept the twenty mile limit, he would fall in with it.

*Sir F. DIXON HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge) thought the Committee had no idea of the feeling which existed in the country with regard to this question of speed. It was a singular fact that 92 per cent. of the convictions in the counties for furious driving had been for speeds between twenty and twenty-five miles an hour, so that the whole of the present dispute was as between fifteen and twenty. It was not merely a question of danger. With a skilful driver the danger might not be great; it was also a question of convenience, and there was a general feeling, on the part of people, that in consequence of the speed at which motor-cars were driven, they dared not use the roads, or allow their children to use them. Another question was that of the dust. That constituted a most obnoxious annoyance to all parties. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept the fifteen miles limit. The feeling was so strong in certain districts that if Parliament did not deal with the matter the people themselves would take steps to obstruct the traffic. He had heard it stated in some of the country villages that if they liked they could stop all this themselves, for they declared that they only needed to put down a few boulders and then the motor-cars could not go along that road. Of course, he did not at all agree with that mode of settling the question, but it showed the state of public feeling upon this question, and it would be much better to have a reasonable rate fixed.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said he was extremely shocked to hear the hon. Gentleman suggest even remotely that such an outrage as the placing of boulders upon the public highway should be perpetrated. He congratulated the hon. Member upon his courage in making that statement, and he would remind him that if he had said that in Ireland he would have been put in gaol. It was quite evident that if this Bill passed at all it would have to be passed by compromise. The President of the Local Government Board recognised the other day that compromise was necessary, and he inserted a speed limit of twenty-five miles. Now the Member for Leicester had proposed that the limit should be fifteen miles, and while he agreed with this proposal he suggested that a compromise should be arrived at by splitting the difference and making the limit twenty miles. This limit referred to rural districts and not to towns, where the speed would not be more than ten miles an hour. Under some circumstances ten or fifteen miles an hour would be a dangerous speed, but some outside limit must be arrived at, and while he thought fifteen miles upon ordinary occasions would be quite sufficient, in the interests of this Bill passing, he suggested that they should split the difference. If they did not do this there would be a protracted discussion. The hon. Member who spoke about boulders had stated what was perfectly true in regard to the public feeling, which was most intense upon this matter. He was satisfied that, from what he had seen in London, if something was not done to check the extravagant speed of motorists they would have public rioting in the streets. The feeling was so high that the public would probably take the law into their own hands. Whilst riding along a narrow country lane from Richmond on his bicycle he was overtaken by a motor-car and because he objected to run into the ditch in order to allow the motor to pass the driver abused him. He was sure the Committee would be pleased to hear that he speedily convinced that driver that if he was an expert motorist he was an expert in the art of abuse, and moreover he had public feeling upon his side. There was no doubt the feeling of the public was against motor-cars.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW said the hon. Member for the Uxbridge Division had urged upon the Committee the desirability of limiting the speed to fifteen, or even twelve, miles an hour in the interest of people resident in the country. He himself was not sure that it was in the interest of those who resided in the country districts to put undue restrictions on the use of motor-cars. One of the features of hopefulness for the people in the country districts was the extraordinary facility given for locomotion by the use of motor-cars. He had some experience as a motorist, having been for a considerable time in the habit of using a motor-car, and he could say that a more useful vehicle for getting from one place to another they could not find. He objected as much as his fellow-men to the abuse of motor-cars by those who went at a high speed and inconsiderately took the centre of the road, necessitating others to turn aside. That was a reprehensible practice. He did not believe the ordinary user of a motor-car found it necessary to array himself in strange habiliments, or even to put on spectacles, and as one who had himself suffered from the abuse of the road by drivers at too great a speed, he urged a compromise. He thought those who wished to keep the limit low probably did not realise the extraordinary rapidity with which a motor-car could be brought to rest. More ground would be covered, by a horse going eight miles an hour, before he could be brought to absolute rest than in the stoppage of a motor-car going at twenty-five miles an hour. But, knowing the strong feeling in the country, he would be in favour of the reduction of the speed to twenty miles an hour. As between fifteen and twenty-five he would vote for fifteen, but he hoped the hon. Member for Leicester would withdraw his Amendment in favour of a proposal by the hon. Member for Peckham to fix twenty miles as the limit.

MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury) said he was not anxious to see a speed limit imposed at all, but as the passing of the Bill was the most important object before the Committee at present, he joined in the appeal of the hon. Baronet for a compromise. It was an undoubted fact that a motor going at twenty-five miles an hour was more under the control of the driver than a horse vehicle going at ten or eleven miles an hour.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn) said that, as one who had experience of the Bath Road, he must say that his feelings were in accordance with those of the hon. Baronet when he said that he would rather see a speed limit of fifteen than twenty-five miles, but they could not shut their eyes to the fact that the Bill gave great advantages which they might lose if they did not arrive at a compromise. He was inclined to agree to the twenty miles speed limit. Motorists did not seem to understand that, owing to their fast driving and the dust they raised, life in cottages on the country highways was almost intolerable.

*MR. CHANNING said what they had to face was the fact that there were number of people who were determined to get out of the high road the same sort of pleasure they obtained from a fast run with the hounds. The fact had also to be faced that large profits were made by manufacturers who built high speed motor-cars. [MR. SCOTT MONTAGU: No, they are not paying dividends.] He did not know whether the companies paid dividends or not, but the hon. Member would not challenge the statement that a much higher price was paid for a high-power car than a low-power car. During the eighteen years he had been in the House he had paid as close attention as any man to questions relating to the safety of railway working. Did any man seriously contend that Parliament, in passing the Light Locomotives Act, 1896, ever contemplated letting loose express engines on the high roads? In the railway legislation of the Board of Trade, on the railways the trains were confined to rails, and were checked by the system of block-signalling and other arrangements for securing the maximum of safety to the public. In the Light Railways Act also the greatest care was taken with regard to level crossings to avoid the dangers they were now considering in connection with motor-cars passing along the public roads Were they, for the pleasure of a few gentlemen who wished to drive cars at an excessive speed—and he called twenty-five miles an excessive speed—to omit every precaution whatsoever in regard to a class of vehicles which were not confined to rails nor worked by any system of signals? Unless they restricted the speed they could not secure that degree of safety which the people of the country desired. He thought there was very great reason for asking that the limit should be reduced to fifteen miles. He knew that motors could be turned or stopped with great quickness and in very narrow areas. That ought to be recognised by all who came to deal with the question practically, but he wholly denied that with a speed of over fifteen or sixteen miles an hour motor traffic could be safely managed in the rural districts. It was true that at a moderate speed vehicles like the electric *coupés* in London could be steered with great skill and safety, but it did not follow that the same could be done at a high speed in rural districts. He urged that the speed limit for motors should only be slightly in excess of the speed of horse traffic. He therefore did not agree with the proposed compromise of twenty miles. If the wealthy men who indulged in motoring desired a higher speed let them build roads for themselves or take large tracts of country.

MR. KENNETH BALFOUR said it was in consequence of the action of a few evildoers that motorists were placed in their present position. The hon. Member for East Northamptonshire had referred to the electric cars in use in London. The fact of the matter was that the motor vehicles which had been running during the past year in the suburbs of London had been responsible for one fatal accident, traction engines killed two, and cycles killed six persons. What did they find in regard to the slow-going, horse-drawn vehicles? In 1901, in the Metropolitan area, vans, carts, and waggons were responsible for 127 deaths, cabs for fourteen, and omnibuses for twenty-three.

SIR PHILIP MUNTZ (Warwickshire, Tamworth) asked what was the proportion between the number of motor-cars and the number of horsed vehicles in the Metropolitan area for that year?

MR. KENNETH BALFOUR said that information was not given; but he thought the fact he had quoted showed that motoring was not attended with danger to the public. It was a question more of control than of speed. Hon. Members did not seem to be aware of the powerful and effective way the brakes of motors worked. He sincerely hoped the President of the Local Government Board would not give way.

*MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said that the whole of the discussion had been from the point of view of the rich man. It was supposed that the poor man could get out of the way of danger when a motor-car, which had cost £500 or £600, was coming swinging along at an express-train speed.

He might mention that twenty miles an hour was the speed of the ordinary Irish train, and no matter what rate of speed was fixed, there would always be the temptation and the inclination to exceed the rate of speed, and therefore to break the law, rather than to keep it. This practice of flying like demons all over the country ought to be put a stop to. Being dissatisfied both with the twenty mile and the fifteen mile limit, he would propose an Amendment to the Amendment limiting the rate of speed to ten miles.

THE CHAIRMAN said that he could not accept an Amendment to an Amendment to an Amendment.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford) said he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would adhere to the limit of speed which he had already fixed. In a few more years they might be able to know a little more of the mechanism of motor-cars, and the speed at which they might be able safely to go, and then a Bill might be drawn fixing a maximum of speed which would be fairer in its application.

MR. LAWSON WALTON said he could not agree that no distinction could be drawn between the rate at which motor-cars could be driven and horse traffic. The effect of the limitation was that, however safely a motor-car might be travelling, and however clear the road, there should not be a user of the highway by any vehicle at a higher speed than twenty-five miles an hour. The first section provided against speed which was dangerous. But mere speed by itself was not dangerous, and if there was no danger he did not see why the speed limit should not be high. Hon. Members ought to keep their heads cool in face of the very strong feeling which existed outside on this subject, and there was no ground for inserting a harrassing restriction when there was no danger. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would adhere to his Amendment.

SIR PHILIP MUNTZ said he preferred the present limit of fourteen miles an hour, which was quite high enough speed for any motor-car. He did not think that the President of the Local Government Board had acted quite in the spirit of the compromise agreed upon on Tuesday last. It was never contemplated, except by mad motorists, that any speed approaching twenty-five miles would be fixed upon as the limit. The right hon. Gentleman's proposal was a very wild one, because cars would run on the roads whenever they had an opportunity of doing so at the maximum speed. He had received letters from all parts of the country shewing the strong feeling which existed on this subject. One correspondent wrote:—

> "If these inhuman motorists carry their provisions, I should hope that an anti-motorist league of electors may be formed, pledged to vote against any candidate who keeps a motor-car, or hold shares in Motor Companies."

He had received letters from agriculturists to the effect that a speed of twenty miles an hour would not be acceptable. Any hon. Member who voted for twenty or twenty-five miles an hour would discover the effect of his vote at the next general election. He himself would certainly vote against any such speed.

MR. MARSHALL HALL (Lancashire, Southport) said that his hon. and learned friend the Member for South Leeds had uttered words of great weight which would carry conviction to any one who would take the trouble to understand them. The difference between twenty and twenty-five miles was not a question of speed at all, but a question of expediency, so far as the Committee was concerned. He had an Amendment on the Paper that the speed limit should be twenty miles; and his hon. friends on the Government side of the House who were really trying to deal with this question from the point of view of those who were honestly interested in motoring and wished to use motors and not abuse them, would, he thought, be well advised if they accepted a compromise of twenty. The duty of the House of Commons in this matter was to stand between the public and unreasonable prejudice. He was not a motorist, although he hoped to have a motor; nor was he mad; and he would answer for it, he was not inhuman. He did not, therefore, fulfil the conditions which one hon. Member had ascribed to those who favoured motors. In dealing with this question he hoped the House of Commons would not allow itself to be warped by prejudice which was really born of inexperience. It was a question of compromise, and they could not have a reasonable compromise if all the concessions were given on one side. At the present moment motorists had conceded everything. They had agreed to accept evidence of identification which of itself would revolutionise motoring throughout the country; and therefore they said they should be allowed a reasonable amount of maximum speed. The question of maximum speed was entirely independent of Clause 1 of the Bill, because in the opinion of the Court a man might be driving recklessly at two miles an hour, if he ran say into a perambulator on the pavement. The danger of fixing too low a maximum was that the maximum of itself became a danger, because people would take the risk of driving at a greater speed than if a limit were not fixed. He had sufficient confidence in those who did not abuse the use of motors to believe that they would educate the public mind in their favour and destroy the present prejudice against them; and, since the President of the Local Government Board had accepted a three years' limitation of the Bill, he trusted that at the end of that time all prejudice against motors would be removed; that much greater facilities would be given to motorists who wished to use their cars for the purposes of locomotion in the place of horses; and that it would be made clear that motorists had no desire to injure the public. It would be a great shame if the many were punished for the sins of the few. He hoped the Committee would accept the twenty mile limit, and that his friends would accept it, simply because he did not believe they would get a twenty-five mile limit.

MR. WALTER LONG said that, in intervening at that stage, he had no intention of quarrelling with his hon. friend, the Member for the Tamworth Division, although he confessed he could not follow the remarks of his hon. friend. His hon. friend stated that no hon. Gentleman had any idea as to what the limitation of speed should be.

SIR PHILIP MUNTZ said he himself suggested twelve miles an hour.

MR. WALTER LONG said his hon. friend appeared to forget the meaning of the word "compromise." His hon. friend's interpretation of a compromise was evidently not to meet differences half-way.

SIR PHILIP MUNTZ said a compromise did not necessarily mean double the existing speed.

MR. WALTER LONG said he would not bandy words with his hon. friend. He was satisfied that the majority of the Committee would recognise that the Amendment he had placed on the Paper was a strict fulfilment of the promise he made to the House on the Second Reading debate on the Bill. What were they fighting about now? Not as to whether there should be a limitation of speed or not. They had decided that. The whole of this controversy had been practically limited to the difference between twenty and twenty five miles. [AN HON. MEMBER: Fifteen.] No. He appealed to those who had taken part in the debate whether the general sense of the Committee had not been following out this principle of compromise, and whether speaker after speaker, while expressing his own view, had not stated his willingness to see a compromise effected? He did not say all Members, but that the majority of speakers had agreed that a compromise was the best way to settle this question. All he had risen for now was to ask whether it was worth while to go on for the rest of the afternoon discussing whether twenty or twenty-five would be the better figure? He should offer, on the part of the Government, a determined resistance to the Amendment of fifteen miles. He should like to see twenty-five carried, but believing it to be desirable to end a discussion of this kind, when everything had been said that could be said, and that the general sense of the Committee tended towards a compromise, he could not help thinking the most business like procedure would be to agree upon a middle figure and accept twenty. For his own part he was unable to see that there was any material difference between twenty and twenty-five. He regretted the interposition of a speed limit at all; but the House of Commons had not supported him in that view, and he had accepted its decision. Surely what the Government had done other hon. Members might do, and accept what was, he believed, not only the general sense of the Committee, but of the country, and agree to a compromise, which they might accept without discredit to themselves, and which could not have very far-reaching effects either on the industry itself or on the enjoyment and comfort of those who were going to use motors. He could not see that the difference between twenty and twenty-five was a matter of supreme importance; but one matter that was of supreme importance was that this Bill must be placed on the Statute-book, and that they must deal with this question justly and fairly, and in the interests of the community, who, if legislation was not passed, would, he was convinced, think they had justification for adopting a course which would be, in the best interests of good government, deplorable in the extreme.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH (Bristol, W.) said he came down to the House with the intention of opposing a limit of twenty-five miles, and of supporting the proposal of fifteen miles, because he was well aware of the very strong feeling in this matter in the country districts—justifiable feeling, in his opinion—and because he thought the limit of twenty-five miles was too high. But they had heard some very wise words from his right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board. After all, they had to think that day not only of the question of speed, but of the question of time. Was this Bill to become law or not? He thought it would be a grave misfortune if it did not become law in the course of the present session. Therefore, although his inclination had been towards a limit of fifteen miles an hour, he would be prepared to accept the proposal of his right hon. friend.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said he was in favour of the fifteen-mile limit, but he was certain that could not be carried. Therefore he thought it very desirable that this compromise of twenty miles an hour should be adopted. They must wait until one Member of Parliament had been killed and another had been hanged for killing him to get a good Bill.

* MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said he agreed that for the sake of the public it would be a thousand pities if the Bill were not passed, but he would remind the Committee that up to the present moment the concessions had been entirely on the side of the motorist Members of the House. He had endeavoured to impress on his friends the duty and wisdom of being reasonable; and he thought his right hon. friend would agree that he had done his best in that direction. (MR. LONG: Hear, hear.) Personally, he opposed any speed limit at all, but as a compromise twenty-five miles an hour might be acceptable. He had received a telegram from the Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland, an expert motorist, and an able lawyer, stating that he approved of the twenty-five miles limit, and that should the Bill not pass motorists should adopt voluntary measures for identification, and thereby dissociate themselves from "scorchers," who ought to be caught. They had got to a crisis, and it was very difficult to see a way out of it; and he would suggest to his right hon. friend that, as they were now at the fag end of the session, and as there was so much animosity on both sides of the House, he should appoint a Royal Commission, following the example of the French Government, who were exactly in the same position. That would, in his opinion, meet the case. He would go one step further, and one only, in the direction of compromise. At this stage in the session, if a determined body opposed a Bill, that did not improve its chances. He was not in favour of wanton obstruction, and he made the following proposition in order to avoid it. Let his right hon. friend put in the Bill twenty-five miles an hour as the maximum speed, just as fourteen miles an hour was inserted in the 1896 Act as the maximum speed allowed by Parliament, and let him reduce that subsequently by regulation of the Local Government Board to twenty-two-and-a-half or twenty-two miles an hour. Unless that suggestion was accepted the Bill would have very little chance of passing.

MR. BROADHURST said he would like to be permitted to withdraw his Amendment, as there seemed to be a general desire that the compromise of twenty miles an hour should be accepted.

Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare S.) said he wished to direct attention to several complaints which he had received from farmers and horse-breeders in South Kildare, regarding the conduct of a certain class of motorist. There was no complaint whatever against the hon. Gentleman from the New Forest Division or his friends; but it certainly was not the experience of the farmers of South Kildare, that when a young horse was on the road motorists invariably slowed up. A friend of his who bred race-horses within a quarter of a mile of the Cross of Ballyhaunis, which was the start and finish of the motor race for the Gordon-Bennett Cup, lost two young horses, through injuries, because a motorist dashed by at twenty-five miles an hour while they were being removed across the road from one field to another. The owner made representations to the Secretary of the Automobile Club, but received no satisfaction whatever. He hoped the hon. Gentleman the Member for the New Forest Division would represent in the proper quarter that motorists should not travel at anything approaching twenty miles an hour while young race-horses were on the road.

Mr. DALZIEL said that while he appreciated the endeavour of the President of the Board of Trade to secure a compromise, yet it was his strong opinion that if this so-called compromise were adopted its only effect would be to practically ruin, not only the industry of motoring, but the pleasure of motoring also. A motorist would be liable to be arrested at any moment, and to be sentenced to three months' imprisonment. Further, a motorist driving from London to Brighton might have half-a-dozen summonses issued against him on one day by people who simply hated motor-cars. Motorists would not take that great responsibility.

Mr. BROADHURST rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put;" but the Chairman withheld his assent, as it appeared to him that the Committee was prepared to come to an immediate decision.

Question put, "That the words 'twenty-five' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

The Committee divided: Ayes, 42, Noes, 183. (Division List No. 240.)

AYES.

Allhusen,AugustusHenryEden
Balfour, KennethR. (*Christch.*)
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Craig,CharlesCurtis(*Antrim,S*
Dalziel, James Henry
Elibank, Master of
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Gordon,Maj,Evans(*T'rH'mlets*
Gore,Hon. S. F.Ormsby-(*Linc.*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne,Rt.Hon. Charles Seale-
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Lee,ArthurH(*Hants,Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lonsdale John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Macdona, John Cumming
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thompson,DrEC(*Monagh'n,N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Walton,JohnLawson(*Leeds,S.*

Tellers for the Ayes—
Mr. Scott Montagu and
Mr. Guest.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bagot,Capt. JoscelineFitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r.*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir FrederickGeorge
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell,J.H.M.(*DublinUniv*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cawley, Frederick
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(*Birm.*
Chamberlain,RtHn.JA(*Worc.*
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of

Davenport, William Bromley
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, RtHn.SirJ.(*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Fyler, John Arthur
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H.(*CityofLond*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(*Midd'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Howard,J. (*Midd., Tottenham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Joyce, Michael
Kemp, Lieut.-Col. George
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*
Kilbride, Denis
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
Lawrence,Sir Joseph(*Monm'th*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson,JohnGrant(*Yorks.N.R*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(*Bristol,S*)
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (*Kent*
Lucas,Reginald J.(*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Murray,Rt HnA.Graham(*Bute*
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(*Galway,N.*)
O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease,HerbertPike(*Darlingt'n*
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robinson, Brooke
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rose, Charles Day
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.Thos. Myles
Shackleton, David James
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M. H. (*Renfrew*
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,James Parker(*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Rt.HnC.R.(*Northants*
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stroyan, John
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(*Oxf'd Univ*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wallace, Robert
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamH.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts.*
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley,H.(*Ashton und. Lyne*
Wodehouse,Rt. Hn.E.R.(*Bath*
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Question put, "That the word 'fifteen' be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 51; Noes, 178. (Division List No. 241).

AYES.

Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bond, Edward
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, A. C. (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, George
Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants, W.*
Farrell, James Patrick
Fergusson,RtHn SirJ.(*Manc'r*)
Greene, H. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Howard, J. (*Mid., Tottenham*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Kilbride, Denis
Law,Hugh Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
Murphy, John
O'KellyJames(*Roscommon,N.*)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Rigg, Richard
Robinson, Brooke
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Shackleton, David James
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Spear, John Ward
Stroyan, John
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(*Oxf'd Univ*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Wallace, Robert
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Philip Muntz and Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Balfour, RtHn. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Rt Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Balfour, KennethR. (*Christch.*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick G.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. Hicks
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M(*Dublin Univ*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh're*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt. HnJ. A(*Worc.*
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Craig, Charles C. (*Antrim, S.*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalziel, James Henry
Davenport, W. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elibank. Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S. W.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Fyler, John Arthur
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Ldn.*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gordon, Maj Evans (*T'r H'mlets*
Gore, Hon. S. F. Orm-by-(*Linc.*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond-(*Cambs.*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt HnLd G. (*Midd'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Horniman, Frederick John
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur F.
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh're*
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir J. (*Monmouth*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John G. (*Yorks, N. R.*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, A. H. (*Hants., Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hn James (*Kent*)
Lucas, Regd. J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (*Hants*
Mooney, John J.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn. A. G. (*Bute*)
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Nolan, Col. JohnP. (*Galway, N.*
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Connor, James (*Wicklow, W.*
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Percy, Earl
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Rickett, J. Compton
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rose, Charles Day
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seeley, Charles H. (*Lincoln*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spencer, RtHnC. R. (*Northants*)
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir JohnM.
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thompson, DrEC(*Monagh'nN.*
Thomson, F. W. (*York W. R.*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir WilliamH
Walton, John L. (*Leeds, S.*)
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (*Notts.*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ash.-und.-Lyne*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Question, "That the word 'twenty' be there inserted; put, and agreed to."

MR. MURRAY (Coventry) said after the Amendment which had just been passed some consideration ought to be had for those who used small motor-cars and motor bicycles. He represented many owners of small cars and bicycles, many of whom were working men who, under a system of instalments, were able to purchase small motor-cars and cycles at a cost of from £30 to £40. It was for that class for which he now spoke, and he submitted that for the first offence a £5 fine was enough. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"In line 4, to leave out the word 'ten' and insert the word 'five.'"—(*Mr. Murray.*)

Question proposed "That the word 'ten' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped this Amendment would not be pressed. Whether it was true or not, and he had no reason to suppose it was not, that these small machines were largely in the possession of working-men, he did not think this was the place where any relaxation of the penalties should take place. At a later stage in the Bill he would be willing to accept an Amendment in the name of the hon. Member for Southport giving an appeal in cases where fines of £5 and upwards were imposed, and he would be also prepared to consider the suggestion made in so many quarters, that the punishment by imprisonment on the first offence should be remitted.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU thought that an Amendment appearing in his name on page 35 would if accepted, greatly simplify this matter. It was that fines or penalties on motor-cyclists should only be one-half of those imposed on motor-car drivers.

MR. DALZIEL hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not accept this Amendment. He personally thought that small motors and motor-bicycles were the most objectionable. They made much less noise, and practically gave no warning. If the Amendment was insisted on, he should support the right hon. Gentleman in resisting it. He hoped that if the Amendment was withdrawn the right hon. Gentleman would seriously consider the desirability of fixing some scale by which those of moderate means, who might unfortunately become involved in these matters, might not unduly suffer. The fines ought not to be as severe in these cases as in the case of the millionaire who was continually defying the law.

MR. WALLACE pointed out that the penalties were not absolutely fixed by the Bill. The amount of the fine was left entirely to the discretion of the magistrates.

MR. CRIPPS thought that, as the motor-cyclist was usually a poor man, and used the machine for business purposes, there should be a distinction drawn between him and the motorist in the matter of the penalty.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said a number of hon. Members held views in an entirely opposite direction to the right hon. Gentleman in this matter, and if he showed no willingness to compromise it was to be feared that long discussions would result.

MR. WALTER LONG said the magistrates had unfettered power to discriminate between the motorist and the motor-cyclist. He did not think the maximum penalties were excessive. The amount of the fine might be left to the discretion of the magistrates who, he was sure, would do full justice.

MAJOR JAMESON was astounded to hear that. If it was to be left solely to the discretion of the magistrates he would be very sorry for the people who unfortunately came before them. It was perfectly scandalous that these outrageously high penalties should be fixed. A wife-beater was treated no worse than a motorist who might exceed the speed limit by half a mile. It was said that the matter might be left to the discretion of the magistrates. He had never known magistrates to have any discretion, and he therefore would never consent to leaving this matter to their discretion. The Bill piled penalty upon penalty, and magistrates would impose every fine possible, and throw odium on everyone. They were not going to sit calmly down and allow that to be done, and they would fight the measure, line by line, in order to secure that these things were kept within proper limits. They wanted some consideration for the poor man. They did not intend to have these terrible and outrageous penalties inflicted on people who did not deserve them, and he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that if he would reduce the amount of the fines it would conduce to the more rapid progress of the Bill.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT protested against the principle of high penalties. The penalties imposed by the Bill were certain to operate unequally. The rich man would pay the fine, the poor man would have to go to prison. This unequal operation of the law would not deter people from committing offences. He had brought under his notice only the other week a case where penalty after penalty, amounting in the aggregate to over £100, had been inflicted on the same man, and paid without demur. If the man had been poor he would have had to go to prison, or he would have refrained from breaking the law continuously. The proper course to take was to fix moderate fines that would affect all classes equally, and in the case of habitual offenders to provide imprisonment. In his view the whole principle of the clause was wrong.

Mr. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore) said he was unable to contribute to the cataract of tears being shed over automobilists on the subject of fines. After all, this was not a question of fixing an arbitrary fine, it was "a fine not exceeding," and it might safely be left to the local Courts to take all the circumstances fairly into account and deal out justice accordingly. The automobile car business must be brought under the strict and rigid administration of the law. Those who agreed with him were not narrow-minded or animated by a dog-in-the-manger spirit. Personally, he could not afford a six-hundred-guinea motor, but he did not grudge any other man the luxury. But he would like to point out that the greater part of the most serious accidents had occurred on country roads, where it was thought that rash driving was attended with least danger. It was, however, in the villages where the danger was greatest, for in the towns the people were more alert.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 163; Noes, 36. (Division List No. 242.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Un.*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cawley, Frederick
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (*Worc.*
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*
Corbett, T. L. (*Down North*)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkieth, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliott, Hon. A Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, Edmund B. *Hants, W.*
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Fyler, John Arthur
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir A. Frederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S*)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc.*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Greene, W. Raymond- (*Cambs.*
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, J. (*Midd. Tottenham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh'e*
Joyce, Michael
Kemp, Lieut-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
Kilbride, Denis
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*
Lawson, John G. (*Yorks. N.R.*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter E.
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttlelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n*
Percy, Earl
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, William (*Clare*)

Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rose, Charles Day
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Sandys, Lieut-Col. T. Myles
Shackleton, David James
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Spear, John Ward
Spence,rRt HnC.R.(*Northants*
Spencer, Sir E. (*W.Bromwich*
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester.*
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. *Ox'd Univ.*
Thomas, F. Freeman-(*Hastings*)
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Toulmin, George
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir W. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (*Notts*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ash. und. Lyne*
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balfour, Kenneth R.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Brigg, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Craig, CharlesCurtis(*AntrimS*
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*
Elibank, Master of
Foster, PhilipS. (*Warwick S. W*
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hall, Edward Marshall
Harmsworth, R. (*Leicester*)
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
Montagu. G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (*Hants*
Norman, Henry
Rigg, Richard
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Seely, CharlesHilton (*Lincoln*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Stanley-Hon. Arthur(*Ormskirk*
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thompson, DrEC (*Monaghn'N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Ure, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Charles Murray and Mr. Allhusen.

Mr. LOUIS SINCLAIR said that the penalty for a second offence should be subject to the proviso that the second offence was not committed on the same day, his object being to guard against cumulative fines if the defendant was prosecuted in adjoining districts for the same excessive running. He pointed out that going down hill made a lot of difference in the speed, and magistrates would fail to take that matter into account. It had been shown that these atrocious penalties were practically illegal, and he hoped the Government would abandon this policy of eternally piling up fines.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU pointed out that in going down a road a motorist might unconsciously be travelling just over the limit, and three or four private persons, having taken his number, might summon him. In this way a man, without knowing he had committed an offence, might be fined £10, £20, or £50, all in the same day, and along the same road. That would be a monstrous injustice, and he thought some such words as those proposed ought to be inserted.

MR. T. M. HEALY thought it was unreasonable that a man should be liable to be fined these penalties, for, perhaps, an initial error, and suggested that the cumulative penalty should not be imposed for practically the same offence.

MR. MARSHALL HALL said the difficulty might be met by the insertion of the provision that the second fine on the same day should not be incurred unless there had been an intimation to the person driving that an offence had been committed in the first instance. A man might be going twenty-one miles an hour without knowing he was exceeding the limit, and four or five persons might summons him for practically the same offence. If, however, he had received an intimation, and still continued at the same pace, the initial penalty should be repeated.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY thought there was something in the argument that there should not be more than one penalty for what was practically the same offence, and undertook to consider the point before the Report stage.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND moved an Amendment providing that for any offence subsequent to the second the penalty should be "a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month" instead of a fine not exceeding £50. He urged that the great object of the Committee should be to find a punishment that would fit the crime, and the magistrates should be empowered to impose imprisonment for repeated offences against the law. Fines were no deterrent to wealthy motor-car owners, but a short term in prison would produce a salutary effect even on a millionaire. He acknowledged that the President of the Local Government Board had gone a long way in his endeavour to bring about a compromise, and he was also aware that the right hon. Gentleman had declared he would not allow imprisonment to be inflicted for an infringement of the speed limit, but he felt bound in common justice to move the Amendment, as a fine which a wealthy man would not feel in the least degree might be a very severe punishment to a poorer man. It was true that imprisonment did not deter Irish Members of Parliament from declaring their political opinions, but he believed it would do some of these flying millionaires all the good in the world. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"In line 6 to leave out the words 'a fine not exceeding £50,' and insert the words 'a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month.'"—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the Amendment was a departure from the basis of settlement which had induced his right hon. friend to bring forward this clause, and which was, that imprisonment should not be coupled with the laying down of a speed limit. The infringement of the speed limit was, after all, a less serious offence than driving to the public danger. The two offences were in different categories, and driving to the danger of life and limb was punished more severely. He hoped, therefore, the hon. Member would not press the Amendment.

MAJOR JAMESON said he had desired to move to reduce the penalty for the second offence from £20 to £10.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member should have risen as soon as the hon. Member for East Clare stated where his Amendment would come in.

MAJOR JAMESON said he did not hear the effect of the Amendment stated until nearly the end of the speech.

*THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that the ordinary course was for a Member to write out his proposed Amendment on paper and bring it to the Chair. If he did not take the trouble to do that, he ought to watch the proceedings carefully to see that he was not shut out by other Amendments being moved.

MAJOR JAMESON said that while he thought the suggestion of imprisonment was not half so bad as the other penalties in the clause, he must oppose the Amendment. The sole desire of the hon. Member for East Clare was to punish millionaires. He was not a millionaire, therefore the enactment would not affect him. He had not the slightest objection to the penalty being inserted, but things ought to be done in proper order; it was absolutely unfair that it should be sandwiched in at this point, and he should vote against it.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND, in asking leave to withdraw the Amendment, expressed the hope that the right hon. Gentleman would consider whether something could not be done in the direction he had indicated.

Amendment, to the proposed Amendment, as amended, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DALZIEL moved to add at the end of the proposed Amendment the words "provided that proof of the exact measurement and rate of speed should be produced." He said that all he asked was that satisfactory proof of the rate of speed at which the car was travelling should be produced in Court. At present, in many cases the charges were based on a mere guess of a policeman, and it was only reasonable, if these substantial penalties were to be imposed, that satisfactory proof of the offence should be forthcoming.

Amendment proposed to the proposed mendment, as amended—

"At the end, to add the words 'provided that proof of the exact measurement and rate of speed be produced.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not think those who were interested in motoring were doing any good to their case by invariably assuming that every Court would be prejudiced against motorists and were going to act unfairly towards them. He could not think there was any necessity in this case to impose on magistrates an obligation in regard to evidence which was not imposed on them in any other case.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked if the convictions of motorists in England counted for promotion in the case of the policeman. If it did, it would be a very easy thing for him to sally out from the police station, stop-watch in hand, and shortly afterwards to find two stripes blossoming out on his shoulder. It would be a great temptation to a policeman to be thus able to become a sergeant "on easy terms." He was surprised to hear that the aristocracy in England had so much suspicion of the police, as when the peasantry in Ireland harboured such a feeling they were at once condemned as possessing a double dose of original sin, and it was really most painful to find this suspicion of law and order arising in England.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said the Amendment was scarcely practicable. He would be very sorry if any general impression obtained that the magistrates did not do their best to administer justice impartially. Speaking with some experience, he ventured to say that, on the whole, magistrates did their duty conscientiously and arrived at correct conclusions. He agreed with the President of the Local Government Board that these matters were best left to the general laws of evidence.

MAJOR JAMESON said that this Amendment ought to be met in a proper way, and they ought to have some of that spirit of compromise for which the right hon. Gentleman had always hitherto been celebrated. He hoped the President of the Local Government Board would give way in this matter, and he appealed to him to do this in order that the Bill might go through.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said that, taking it as a whole, he thought they got justice from the magistrates, but there existed an enormous amount of prejudice in this matter. Although he had not yet been convicted, unjust attempts had been made to stop his car whilst driving to the House of Commons. Coming down Cornhill upon one occasion about five miles an hour, a policeman stopped him and demanded his name and address. He gave his name, and his address as "the House of Commons," but the officer refused to take that address. He was summoned, but the case was dismissed, and although the magistrate agreed with him the Commissioner of Police disagreed, and he awarded this particular policeman two days' holiday. There was an enormous amount of prejudice against motorists. They had heard a good deal about stop-watches. Not long ago a policeman produced a stop-watch, and upon examination it was found that the works were completely out of order, and the case was dismissed. In one case a stick was thrown at a motor-car, and when the owner applied for a summons the magistrate held that as the motor-car must have been going at a furious rate the man who threw the stick was not responsible for the damage. He thought it was unjust not to issue a summons against the man who threw the stick. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would insert something in regard to these penalties which would satisfy justice. None of them wanted to travel faster than twenty miles an hour, but he thought words should be inserted demanding some proof as to the rate of speed.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) said he hoped the President of the Local Government Board would maintain the position he had taken up. If this Amendment were accepted no conviction would ever be obtained, except by setting a trap.

MR DALZIEL: Not necessarily.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY said if any ordinary person observed a car travelling at a high rate of speed, unless he could state the exact speed at which the car was going, and declare that it was twenty and a-half miles or twenty-one and a-half miles, or some definite speed, no conviction could be obtained. Therefore this clause would be rendered null and void. If his hon. friend persisted in this Amendment he hoped it would be rejected.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that as a means of getting out of this difficulty, he would suggest that some such words as those contained in his Amendment on page 19 should be inserted. He thought the evidence of the police constable should be corroborated by some other material evidence. He suggested that his Amendment should be incorporated in this clause. If no safeguard were provided there would be no guarantee that the prosecutor was any judge of speed at all, and a motorist might be brought up 200 miles from his home to defend a trumped-up case. He would suggest that the testimony of the constable should be corroborated by some other material evidence implicating the accused. (Cries of "No.")

CAPTAIN GREVILLE (Bradford, E.) protested against the aspersion cast upon certain hon. Members by the right hon. Gentleman who stated that they were interested in motor-cars.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not think his hon. friend was entitled to say that. His language had been misunderstood, and he had explained to the Committee that it was never intended to be so interpreted. After that explanation he did not think the hon. Member was entitled to deliberately ask the Committee to accept that interpretation of his language.

CAPTAIN GREVILLE apologised to the right hon. Gentleman and withdrew his statement. He said that magistrates had not shewn themselves willing to accept definite proof on this matter. It was all very well to say that they were not biassed, but they were, because many magistrates had given expression to views which showed clearly that they were anti-motorists. Why should a man holding definite anti-motorist views be allowed to adjudicate in regard to an offence of this sort? Was it unreasonable to ask that some proof should be given in regard to the rate of speed? There was nothing more liable to error than the calculation of speed. Hon. Members who owned horses would be very hard put to it to say whether they were going at five miles or ten miles an hour, and yet they were asking the House of Commons to put motorists at the mercy of an ignorant constable, who was probably full of energy and ready to do his duty, but who was no judge of the speed of motor-cars going along ordinary roads, unless he timed the speed with a reliable watch over a measured distance They had a right to ask the right hon. Gentleman to allow a more definite proof in regard to the rate of speed to be brought before the magistrate before those almost savage penalties were inflicted.

MR. WALLACE said that it was an extraordinary thing to attack magistrates on the ground that they were so prejudiced againt motor-cars that they could not discharge their ordinary duties as magistrates. He had never heard of any difficulty in magistrates trying poachers because they happened to be interested in the Game Laws. It had not been suggested that in regard to motorists they were going to convict without evidence. He was not now dealing with penalties. He was dealing with the question of conviction. The hon. Gentleman opposite did not suggest that because the penalties differed the proof ought to differ also. There ought never to be a conviction without sufficient evidence. He trusted the right hon. Gentleman would stand by the clause as drawn. They were greatly obliged to him for the way he had met them in regard to this Bill. There was, however, a danger that unless they got on faster they would lose the Bill altogether.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he thought he could undertake to convince the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that some Amendment of this nature was requisite. Why was that? When the right hon. Gentleman brought in the Bill it was without a speed limit, because all the chief constables of

England were agreed that that was the proper course to take. Why was it the proper course to take? Because in regard to this question of speed, above all others, it was almost impossible for the human judgment to be infallible. In a painful case he was connected with last week he heard a barrister swear that the car was going at forty miles an hour, a law student swore that the speed was twenty miles an hour, and a sensible policeman said it was going very fast, but he could not say how fast. He had not the least apprehension in regard to the action of the Irish police or the Irish Bench in this matter because they always acted fairly, except in political cases. Once they left religion and politics out of the question, in Ireland they had far better Judges and law and magistrates than here in England. Of course, the things that aroused their passions were questions of religion and politics. So far as Ireland was concerned he was not in the least alarmed by the proposal in the Bill as it stood, but unless they established a trap system how could a magistrate, when there was a conflict of testimony, come to a conclusion in regard to speed, and the very drastic penalties which were to be imposed? His hon. friend the Member for Perth had said that it was a monstrous thing to state that the magistrates were prejudiced. All people were prejudiced. He hated motor-cars himself, and he was perhaps the most prejudiced man in the House against them. To say that the magistrates were prejudiced was to say that they were human beings. Everyone was prejudiced very much against motorists, unless he was a motorist himself. He should not regard any one connected with the motor industry as unprejudiced. He thought it would be a far more profitable industry than the one in which he was himself engaged. [Cries of "No."] Be that as it might, they were dealing with a very difficult question. They were dealing with a case where public liberty and life and limb were at stake, where the tendency of the Bench and the police was to down the few men against whom practically every man's hand was turned. As he understood, every man's hand here was against the motorist, but in Ireland it was not so. It might be because they had not so many motorists in Ireland. It seemed to him in regard to this very difficult question of speed that some greater precision in points of evidence was desirable. His hon. friend the Member for Kirkcaldy had suggested the production of some corroborative or particular form of evidence. He did not think that anybody's liberty was safe if the man in the street was to be entitled to say "I believe that man was going at thirty or twenty-five miles an hour." It seemed to him, therefore, that although motorists belonged to a class which had very seldom been brought into contact with the law, they were beginning to feel that they were in the position of the common man in England or the poacher in Ireland. They would begin to feel now that, so far as offence against the law was concerned, they had more interest in the general democratic administration of the law. The right hon. Gentleman had expressed himself as being most anxious to get this Bill. The House of Lords, conservative as it was, initiated this Bill, and they might have a word to say upon the Amendments. While he was most anxious to see the speed limit reduced he was also most anxious to see the Bill become law. It might happen in this case, as happened in regard to the Children's Bill recently, that there would be a strong fanatical body on one side and another strong fanatical body on the other side. It was for the House itself to take up a position of moderation. This Bill would go back to the Lords, who had no electors to send them to Parliament, and, therefore, they might take a very different view from the House of Commons with regard to the necessities of the case. Therefore, if the Bill was to become law, he begged the right hon. Gentleman to consider whether something more was not necessary than the mere *ipse dixit* of a policeman or a villager.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he could not help thinking that it would be better to adhere to the usual rules of law. The question of the speed at which a motor was travelling was a question of fact, and surely it was better to leave that question of fact to be determined by the magistrates. He did not believe it was possible to devise any satisfactory form of words. It seemed to him that the form of words proposed was not satisfactory. He suggested to the Committee that, having made up their minds that there should be a speed limit, it should be left to the magistrates to say whether or not it had been exceeded.

MR. DALZIEL said if the Attorney-General did not like the form of words proposed he was willing to leave him to introduce another form.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I do not think it possible.

MR. DALZIEL said this matter did not turn upon the evidence. There was hardly a case brought into Court where there were not half-a-dozen witnesses on each side. It was almost impossible to say whether a car was travelling twenty-five or thirty miles an hour unless it was properly timed. All that was asked for was that evidence should be produced that a test had been made of the speed. If the magistrates had to decide between three or four men on the car and the three or four men on the road, how on earth were they to get out of their difficulty? It was simply a case of a number of men guessing on a matter with respect to which it was admittedly practically impossible to guess. They were told that this should be left to the justices. That did not come very well from a Government who would not trust the justices in regard to drink licences, and who were going to introduce a Bill on the subject next year. The whole history of motor-car cases showed that the local magistrates were prejudiced against motorists, and many of them had stated that they would impose the maximum penalty every time motorists were brought before them.

MR. MARSHALL HALL thought there was a good deal to be said for the Amendment. There had been misapprehension as to its effect. It did not cast any aspersion upon either the magistrates or the police. It was fair to state, what was a well-known fact, that it was practically impossible for any human being to say, from mere observation, at what pace a particular vehicle was going. He had had a great deal to do with cases involving the speed of vehicles in London streets, and it was almost impossible to get any uniformity of opinion as to the speed of a hansom cab, and *a fortiori* it would be more difficult to get the speed of a motor-car. Some words were wanted in the Bill to preclude a *bonâ fide* mistake being made as an error of judgment. He would suggest the insertion of the following words:—"No person shall be convicted under this section except upon proof of a time test." That would practically carry out all that was wanted. He was not making any imputation on the honesty of the magistrates or of the police when he suggested that such words as these would meet the case—viz., "No person shall be convicted under this section except on proof of a time test."

MAJOR JAMESON said he wished to protest against the interpretation of this clause being left to the magistrates, and half-educated barristers-at-law.

MR. BRIGG said that the Committee would be wise in allowing the magistrates to exercise their common sense and do justice in this matter.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the Amendment was not one which the Government could possibly accept. He understood from the Solicitor-General for Scotland, that in Scotland, to which part of the kingdom this Bill applied, the evidence of two witnesses would be required for conviction. It was well worth considering whether the same rule should not be applied in England, and before the Report stage the Government could consider whether a clause could not be framed to provide that no conviction should take place except on the evidence of two witnesses.

MR. DALZIEL said he was glad to recognise the spirit with which the right hon. and learned Gentleman had met this point, but the question had nothing to do with two, six, eight, or ten witnesses; for it was humanly impossible for anyone to give correct evidence on this point. There could be no more reasonable Amendment than the one now placed before the Committee.

LORD ALWYNE COMPTON (Bedfordshire, Biggleswade) said that he wished to support the Amendment. There ought to be a proper test of speed. He approached this question, not from the point of view of a driver of a motor-car, because in his own experience he had had the greatest desire in the world to keep within the legal limits of speed, and the magistrates had been often rather unwise in their decisions upon that point. He himself was against a speed limit, because he did not believe that any man or woman could judge what was reckless driving. But the Committee having agreed on a speed limit, they should see that there was a proper means of testing whether that speed was exceeded. In his judgment it was not sufficient that the test should simply be out of the mouth of two witnesses, as had been suggested by the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney-General.

MR. RENWICK (Newcastle-on-Tyne) said he sincerely trusted that the Government would not give way and accept this Amendment.

MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.) said the President of the Local Government Board ought not to ask the Committee to decide this matter without giving them further information. The hon. Gentleman who had just spoken, said that on some lonely road a person might be run down; but that had nothing whatever to do with the speed limit, and was provided for in another part of the Bill. He had driven a motor-car a good deal, and every expert motorist would agree that he would not for a moment attempt to give the speed of a car by watching it pass. Even such an experienced motorist as Mr. Edge said he could not estimate the speed merely by seeing a car pass. If this Amendment were carried they would not get a speed limit really, but a limit to be provided by a policeman. If there was to be a speed limit it should be determined as accurately as possible.

MR. T. M. HEALY said they had heard of the "Lady's Mile," but in future it will be the "Bobbies' Mile."

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 45 Noes, 140. (Division List No. 243.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Balfour, KennethR.(*Christch.*)
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Craig,Chas.Curtis (*Antrim,S.*)
Elibank, Master of
Foster,PhilipS.(*Warwick.S.W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gore,Hon.S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*
Greene,W. Raymond (*Cambs.*)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hall, Edward Marshall
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Healy, Timothy Michael
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Lee, A. H. (*Hants., Fareham*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu,Hon.J.Scott(*Hants.*)
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(*Galway,N.*
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease,Herbt. Pike (*Darlington*
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rose, Charles Day
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Charles Hilton(*Lincoln*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thomas,F.Freeman(*Hastings*)
Walker, Col. William Hall

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Dalziel and Mr. Norman.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bagot, Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell,J.H.M.(*Dublin Univ*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cawley, Frederick
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A(*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cremer, William Randal
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph

Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Grant, Corrie
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (*Mid'*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hayne, Rt. Hon Charles Seale-
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Horniman, Frederick John
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jacoby, James Alfred
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*)
Kilbride, Denis
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Moss, Samuel
Mount, William Arthur
Murphy, John
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Shackleton, David James
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ*
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monaghan N*
Toulmin, George
Valentia, Viscount
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Rt. Hn Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Question, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"After the last Amendment to insert the words, 'Provided that a person prosecuted for an offence under this section shall not be convicted on the evidence of one witness only.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. T. M. HEALY asked whether it would not be better to have two justices. In England one justice could convict. Would it not be fair to say, "a person prosecuted for an offence under this section should not be convicted by one justice only"?

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) asked whether, in this case, there would be an appeal to the quarter sessions, or whether the case would be decided finally by the magistrate.

MR. WALTER LONG: I have already said I am prepared to consider that.

MR. MARSHALL HALL pointed out that there should be two witnesses as to speed. At present there might be two witnesses, but only one could speak as to speed.

MR. WALTER LONG admitted that there must be two witnesses as to speed.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. DALZIEL said his next Amendment was to leave out Sub-section 2 of Clause 1, which provided that any constable might, without warrant, arrest and take to the police station any driver of a motor-car who, in his opinion, had committed an offence under the clause. That was a pretty serious matter when the Bill was first drafted, it was much more serious now.

MR. WALTER LONG pointed out that by a subsequent Amendment he proposed to move this sub-section into its proper place in Section 7, so that it would not apply to Clause 1.

MR. DALZIEL said then he would discuss his Amendment in its relation to the Bill as drafted. The question was whether a police constable should have power to arrest a driver of a motor-car when he thought he had committed an offence under this sub-section. It was a very severe sub-section. He thought it was only reasonable that a police constable should be satisfied with the private card of the driver and the number of his car, by which he could always be identified, and that then he should be summoned in the ordinary way. If a hansom-cab driver ran his cab into another vehicle, nine times out of ten his number was taken and he was summoned in the ordinary course, whereas, in this case, the police constable had a right to be dissatisfied with the driver's card, and would have a right to haul him off to the police station.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out Sub-section 2."—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG pointed out that the sub-section only carried out what was at present the law that, under the Highways Act of 1835, a person causing an accident could be arrested, not only by a constable but by any person.

MR. DALZIEL said in practice arrests were never made. What he argued was that, in regard to this particular Bill, where there was so much prejudice, and where the mind of the policeman was absolutely poisoned by those who hated motors, he would not show that indulgence to motorists that he would show to the driver of a hansom cab or butcher's cart, that it was only right that he should not have the power to take the driver to the station.

MR. WALTER LONG opposed the Amendment, stating that the sub-section simply set out the present law, only it rather weakened the law and made it more favourable to the motorist. Under the Highways Act the driver of a hansom cab or a butcher's cart might be arrested, not by a constable only, but by any person, if it was necessary for the protection of the public. In the present case it was not in the least likely that the power of arrest would ever be put in force except in cases where the driver resists the authority of the police, or where he was in a condition which made his further driving dangerous to the public.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY asked whether they were not engaged in flogging dead horses. If all that Sub-section 2 did was to enact what was at present the law, it only advertised really what the law was, and the Government had nothing to gain by it. He submitted, under the circumstances, that they might delete the sub-section, and leave the law as it was and not unnecessarily advertise it.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge) said the case was even stronger than that put by his hon. friend, because, as the right hon. Gentleman pointed out, this sub-section weakened the law. He therefore appealed to him to accept the Amendment.

MAJOR JAMESON supported the Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman had told the Committee that this clause was more favourable to the motorists, but if motorists preferred the law as it stood, the right hon. Gentleman could have no reason to retain it. He objected to the clause altogether. The Bill had been drawn under totally different circumstances. In the first place, the right hon. Gentleman had told them that the introduction of the speed limit was the greatest folly that had ever been committed. He now came down and carried a speed limit. No criminal could be found who had less justice shown to him than would be shown to the motorist if a constable was to be allowed to pounce upon him and drag him off to durance vile. If this Amendment were persisted in he should support it in the Division Lobbies.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU pointed out that he had down an Amendment dealing with the case of the man who refused to give his name and address and whose car did not bear marks of identification, and he thought that would best meet the case.

MR. DALZIEL said if the Government accepted that Amendment he was willing to withdraw his own.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN moved to insert after "constable" the words "in uniform." The object was to limit the power of arrest to police-constables in uniform. If a man in civilian clothes was to hold up his hand to a motorist to stop, how was the motorist to know that he was not some person intent on a practical joke? If the right hon. Gentleman did not accept this Amendment he would be putting a very severe disability on motorists, as they would be liable to heavy penalties for not stopping, although they might not know whether the person who told them to stop was a constable or not. They might commit the offence quite in ignorance.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, after the word 'constable' to insert the words 'in uniform.'"—(*Mr. Griffith Boscawen.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped the hon. Member would not press the Amendment, as it was unnecessary. If a constable in plain clothes arrested a motorist he would, of course, give proof that he was a constable. It was quite unreasonable to insist that he should be in uniform.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND was able to say from a wide experience extending over many years that, whether one was arrested by a constable in uniform or by a constable in plain clothes, the sensation was exactly the same.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) said it was a question of stopping the car at the behest of anyone who might be a private individual and not a constable even in disguise. Were motorists to be expected to do that?

MR. NORMAN said he should like to have cleared up a point which puzzled motorists. Was it an offence for a motorist not to stop when he was called upon to do so by a man not in uniform?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: It is not an offence.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN said that as the object of his Amendment was to prevent the stopping of motor-cars by men not in uniform he should not press it now that it was laid down that only a constable in plain clothes could stop a car.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU: If a constable is not in uniform how can we tell him from a private individual?

MR. BAYLEY said they had just passed an Amendment providing it should be necessary to have two witnesses in order to secure a conviction, and yet this clause would enable one policeman in private clothes to arrest a motorist. He hoped the Amendment would be pressed so that only uniformed persons should have the power of arrest.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU thought it unnecessary to press the Amendment, as the Attorney-General had assured the Committee that no policeman could stop a motorist unless in unform.

MR. DALZIEL agreed, as the Government had admitted it would not be an offence if a driver ignorant that the person who hailed him was a constable, declined to stop.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN repeated that he would withdraw his Amendment if he was assured that a person who failed to stop when a plain clothes constable held up his hand would not be guilty of an offence.

MR. WALTER LONG said there was no doubt whatever on that point. Obviously only a constable in uniform had the right to stop and arrest.

MAJOR JAMESON was glad of that assurance, for only on Bank Holiday his motor was pulled up by a fellow who wanted to borrow half-a-crown. Nothing would again induce him to stop for a man in plain clothes.

*THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that the section referred not to stopping, but to arresting.

MAJOR JAMESON said a man could not be arrested until he had been stopped.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN said that in view of the statement made on behalf of the Government that the constable must be in uniform he would not press the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU formally moved to amend Sub-section 2 by inserting after the word "view" the words "who refuses to give his name and address, or whose motor-car does not bear the mark or marks of identification."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, at end, to insert the words, 'who refuses to give his name and address, or whose motor-car does not bear the mark or marks of identification.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Amendment agreed to.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT moved to substitute "or" for "and" in line 17.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the word 'and' and insert the word 'or.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MAJOR JAMESON moved to omit from "Act" in line 17 to the end of the clause. He thought the object of the Amendment would be apparent to everybody. Under the clause as it stood it would be the duty of the owner of a motor-car to give any information within his power to lead to the identification of a driver, and failure to do so would render him liable to be fined. Anything more grossly unfair was never put into an Act of Parliament. It was seriously proposed that the owner should act the spy upon his own driver. He did not believe there were three Members of the House who would dream of doing such a thing, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would allow these words to be deleted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out from the word 'Act,' to end of clause."—(*Major Jameson*.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG pointed out that when a constable had taken the number of a car, the only way in which the name of the owner could be ascertained was by reference to the register. In the meantime, the driver might think it advisable to attempt to evade justice. Surely in such a case the owner ought to be called upon to give what assistance he could to find the driver. There was only one alternative, and that was to make the owner liable for the acts of the driver. He thought the better course was to call upon the owner to give the necessary information.

MAJOR JAMESON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could conceive of any owner coming forward to give evidence against his own driver. It was a grossly unfair provision.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. ALLHUSEN thought it rather hard that an owner should be liable to imprisonment for the offence here provided against, and in order to elicit the view of the right hon. Gentleman he moved to insert after "Act," in line 22, the words, "and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £10."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'Act,' to insert the words, 'and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £10.'"—(*Mr. Allhusen.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG thought the hon. Member hardly appreciated the gravity of the Amendment. Before this penalty could be inflicted the driver must have committed an offence and have refused to give his name and address, or have given a false name or false address. It could not be suggested that it was not a serious matter for a driver to be guilty of such conduct, and the owner to refuse to assist in his identification.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY moved to add the following new sub-section:—"(4) If a driver of a motor-car refuses to stop the movement of the engine when the motor-car is stationary when requested to do so by a police constable or by any person having charge of any horse or mule, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act." He understood that the motorists had no objection to the Amendment provided certain words, which he was willing to accept, were inserted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, at end, to insert the words, '(4) If a driver of a motor-car refuses to stop the movement of the engine when the motor-car is stationary when requested to do so by a police constable or by any person having charge of any horse or mule, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.'"—(*Sir Frederick Banbury*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that if the Amendment were accepted he desired also to insert the words, after the word "stationary," "for more than three minutes, except when detained by reason of the traffic."

Mr. WALTER LONG hoped his hon. friends would not press the Amendment, either in its original or in its amended form. This was one of the things that ought to be met by regulation. Under the Act of 1896 the Local Government Board had power to frame regulations, and he was quite prepared to frame a regulation dealing with this subject on the lines suggested by the Amendment.

MR. DALZIEL expressed his surprise at the action of the President of the Local Government Board. He thought the right hon. Gentleman hardly realised the effect of this proposal. It simply meant that any person in charge of a mule might stop a car and compel the engine to be turned off.

MR. WALTER LONG said that what he had undertaken to do was to accept the principle of the proposal; he would take care that the regulation was framed in a fair and reasonable way.

MR. DALZIEL said the point of this proposal was that if a motor-car was standing still, and the engine was on, a person in charge of a mule could compel him to turn off the engine. [AN HON. MEMBER: Why not?] He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would do nothing so foolish as to accept this proposal. If a driver of a motor-car saw a horse in trouble he almost invariably slowed down. It would be very unfair that a person in charge of a mule should be able to insist upon a man stopping his engine.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said the hon. Member opposite was quite mistaken in thinking that this was not a grievance to the people who drove horses. The other day the driver of a motor-car standing stationary near his horse deliberately refused to stop his engine until a police constable appeared, and then he had to do it. If his right hon. friend would give an assurance that in framing regulations this danger would be guarded against he should be very pleased to withdraw his Amendment.

MR. NORMAN said his hon. friend the Member for Kirkcaldy was quite right in his contention. If a man held up his hand the motor-car driver was compelled to stop, and then a person in charge of a mule could compel him to stop his engine. This would practically prevent motor-cars using the public roads at all.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DALZIEL said he should like to point out two of the weak points of the clause which would very much endanger the usefulness of this Bill. In the first place there was the liability which they were placing upon the driver of the car, and secondly there was the question of testing the speed. Upon this point a reasonable Amendment had been proposed, and if it had been accepted it would have satisfied many hon. Members who were dissatisfied with the Bill as it stood.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU, in moving the Amendment standing in his name, asked the President of the Local Government Board if he had any idea of the size of the numbers to be adopted. He thought the numbers should be reasonably conspicuous but not disfiguring.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 26, after the word 'number,' to insert the words 'not exceeding in size seven inches in length by three inches in width.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said that the size of the numbers would have to be varied somewhat according to the size of the cars, and it was very undesirable that any words in the Bill should fix the size. This was a matter which could be best dealt with by regulations.

MAJOR JAMESON said he hoped the President of the Local Government Board would give them some idea as to the size of these numbers. This was a matter which should not be left to everybody to decide, and some definite marks should be provided for in the Bill. He contended that they had no right to brand a motor-car like a convict, and make it unsightly, and it was absolutely necessary that the Government should give them some declaration of their intention upon this point. They should have a clearly defined mark, so that there would be no more of this shilly-shallying which had happened upon other points.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU hoped the right hon. Gentleman, in framing his regulations, would take care that the cars, especially those for town use, would not be disfigured in any way.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): asked if it was intended to have the mark on the front and the back or only in one place.

MR. WALTER LONG said these cars varied immensely in size and shape and weight. Probably in some cases one in front and one at the back would be sufficient, but so long as they secured that the mark was conspicuous that would be all that they would insist upon.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ARTHUR STANLEY (Lancashire, Ormskirk) moved to insert the following new sub-section:—"In any case in which the number hereinbefore referred to is made use of for the purpose of a prosecution, the prosecutor or informant shall by evidence prove that all possible means had been taken at the time that the alleged offence was committed to notify to the person so prosecuted that he was required to stop; in default of which, any person or persons instituting a prosecution or laying the information under the Acts aforesaid, shall pay any costs and expenses incurred by the person so prosecuted." He said the reasons for the Amendment were obvious. As the law at present stood, it would be possible for anyone walking along the road to institute proceedings under this Act against a motorist. That alleged contravention might take place at Barnet, and the summons might not reach him until he reached Carlisle some days later. The person prosecuted would not have any means of ascertaining on which part of the road the offence was committed, and would be precluded from calling witnesses—in fact, would be able to offer no defence whatever. It would be only fair that those who intended to prosecute under the Act should at least take all reasonable means of informing the men they intended to prosecute.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 30, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'In any case in which the number hereinbefore referred to is made use of for the purpose of a prosecution, the prosecutor or informant shall by evidence prove that all possible means had been taken at the time that the alleged offence was committed to notify to the person so prosecuted that he was required to stop. In default of which, any person or persons instituting a prosecution or laying the information under the Acts aforesaid, shall pay any costs and expenses incurred by the person so prosecuted.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Stanley.*)

MR. WALTER LONG hoped his hon. friend would not press the Amendment. To introduce at this stage an Amendment so important, which had not appeared on the Paper, would be a dangerous step. He assured his hon. friend that he would consider the Amendment before Report.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out the word 'five,' and insert the word 'twenty.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'five' stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG accepted the Amendment, but a division was challenged by a number of hon. Members.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 22; Noes, 135. (Division List No. 244).

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus H'n'y Eden
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Elibank, Master of
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Londsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Montagu G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
O'Connor, James (*Wicklow, W.*
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Stanley, Hon Arthur (*Ormskirk*
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Dalziel and Major Jameson.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster. Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell, J. H. M (*Dublin Univ*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W, (*Derbyshire*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North.*
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond-(*Cambs.*
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Lord G (*Midd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horner, Frederick William
Horniman, Frederick John
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kemp, Lieut.-Col. George
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*
Keswick, William
Labouchere, Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Lee, Arthur H. (*Hants Fareham*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lowe, Francis William
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Moss, Samuel
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Nicolson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway N.*
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Kelly, James (*Roscommon, N.*
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlington*
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*
Shackleton, David James
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sullivan, Donal

Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G(*Oxf'd Univ*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Toulmin, George
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Sir Charles G. E, (*Notts*
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, H(*Ashton und Lyne*
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Word 'twenty' inserted.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said he moved this Amendment to prevent injustice being done to a driver in the case, for instance, of his registered mark being obscured in a snowstorm.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 5, after the word 'way' to insert the word 'wilfully.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'wilfully' be there inserted in the clause.'

MR. WALTER LONG opposed the Amendment, and insisted that it was the duty of the driver to keep the means of identification legible.

MAJOR JAMESON said that if the President of the Local Government Board wanted to deal fairly with everyone, as he said he would, he ought to accept this Amendment.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said he hoped the President of the Board of Trade would not give way on this point. He thought it would be extremely dangerous to tamper in any way with the identification clause. It seemed to him that the insertion of the word "wilfully" would relieve the motorist from the responsibility of keeping his number clean and legible. Even if a motorist were driving along a muddy road, it should be his duty to stop and clear his number if it were rendered illegible.

MR. ARTHUR STANLEY said that a motorist should not be liable to a fine if the identification mark was obscured by causes beyond his control.

MR. SEELY said the Committee ought to be very careful not to render a man liable to conviction unless he had committed an offence wilfully although perhaps wilfully was not a proper word.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was very anxious that nothing should be allowed to interfere with the number being distinguishable. At the same time, there was a possibility of grave injustice being done, and therefore his hon. and learned friend would move certain words to meet such a case.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he would suggest that the following words be added—

"Unless he proves that the mark had been obscured or rendered not easily distinguishable by unavoidable causes arising from natural conditions over which he had no control."

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment. He hoped, however, that an Amendment would be inserted to cover the case of a lamp displaying the number being broken through no fault of the motorist.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 8, to insert the words, 'unless he proves that the mark had been obscured or rendered not easily distinguishable by unavoidable causes arising from natural conditions over which he had no control."—(*Sir Robert Finlay.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

The sitting was suspended.

On the return of the Chairman—

Clause 3.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU moved to insert, after the first word "licensed," the words "after an examination conducted by experts appointed by the Local Government Board." He said he had placed this Amendment on the Paper in order to meet the view generally expressed by the House, and more or less agreed to by the Government, that the licence should not be similar to a gun licence, but should be a certificate of proficiency.

That being so, he thought it would be better that these certificates should be granted by the Local Government Board authorities rather than by each separate County Council.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 15, after the word 'licensed' to insert the words 'after an examination conducted by experts appointed by the Local Government Board.'"—(*Mr. Scott Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said it would be extremely difficult for the central Department to appoint experts to conduct examinations all over the country. Such a plan, even if it could be carried into effect, would be, he thought, very unsatisfactory.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked whether the Local Government Board would undertake to ensure that on the authority appointed by the County Council there should be a fair representation of automobilists, so that the matter would be dealt with by persons really familiar with the subject.

MR. GRANT LAWSON thought it would be extremely difficult for the Local Government Board to arrange the constitution of the County Councils all over the country.

MR. DALZIEL said that this proposal raised a very difficult question, and it was doubtful whether the adoption of the Amendment would secure the object the Committee generally had in view—viz., that no person should have charge of a car unless he thoroughly understood its mechanism and was qualified to drive it. The Committee ought to have some idea of the kind of test that was to be applied. It would not be sufficient for an official or a member of the County Council to go for a ride, and then, because the driver brought him back without an accident, to grant a licence. The best drivers were generally the most dangerous men on the road, because they would take risks that less experienced drivers would avoid. He would prefer the Local Government Board to the officials of County Councils in this matter; they were less likely to be prejudiced.

MR. GRANT LAWSON suggested that the remarks of the hon. Member would be more applicable to an Amendment lower on the Paper standing in the name of the President of the Local Government Board.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR regretted the absence of the President of the Local Government Board, as this was a very important Amendment, and the public were entitled to know whether, when a man produced a licence, it might be taken for granted that he was qualified to drive. The Amendment referred to by the Parliamentary Secretary would not at all meet the case. How was a man to learn to drive a car unless he was given a licence? If it was to be laid down that an applicant must satisfy the County Council as to his qualifications, a Court of experts would have to be established. What was to be the test? The Local Government Board ought not to shirk their responsibilities in this matter. He thought the Bill was better without this Amendment. The licence should be the same as a gun licence in the sense that it was not a certificate of proficiency. It was surely as dangerous to carry a gun as to drive a motor-car.

MR. ARTHUR STANLEY asked how a driver was to learn in order to get a licence. Another point was whether, if a man obtained a licence to drive a small car, that licence would entitle him to drive a larger car.

*MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) said he was told by motorists that in the matter of driving there was as much difference between one kind of car and another as between a donkey and a four-in-hand. It was therefore a somewhat important point whether a man who obtained a licence for a simple car would be allowed to drive a more difficult one.

MR. DALZIEL asked how, if a licence was not to be given until a test had been passed, a man was to qualify to pass that test.

MR. MURRAY instanced the case of a man who had learnt to drive a motor-bicycle round a yard. Would he be passed as qualified to drive a powerful car?

Mr. WALTER LONG asked how was a beginner to learn to drive? Was a man not to be allowed to drive a motor-bicycle unless he had proved himself capable of driving a motor-car. There were many different kinds of cars, and although a man might be proficient in driving one sort of car, he might not be proficient in driving another sort of car. He suggested that it would be much better to discuss this point upon the Amendment which stood in his name. When they reached that Amendment he should be prepared to say what procedure he proposed. and his statement would cover the questions raised by several hon. Members upon this point.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby) did not think it was sufficient to have the vehicles numbered. He submitted that when a motor-car rushed past and an accident occurred they would not be able to get the number. If they could see the driver's face distinctly so as to be able to identify him afterwards that would be better than all the numbers with which they could mark a vehicle. If his Amendment were carried, no doubt some covering for the face would be devised which would not conceal the features.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 17, at end, to insert the words—'No person shall drive a motor-car on a public highway with his face so concealed as not to be reasonably identified.'"—(*Mr. Lawrence.*)

Question proposed "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG said many people went to the Derby with their faces so concealed that it was impossible to recognize them. But was the recognition of the countenance in the least likely to be a useful means of finding out who the car belonged to? The object of the Bill was not to secure identification of the individual, but to indentify the car itself, and having got that what did it matter about identification by the face.

Sir FORTESCUE FLANNERY appealed to his hon. friend to withdraw this ridiculous Amendment. If his hon. friend had had any experience of passing through the air, even on a bicycle, he would find that the current of air against the face frequently caused watering of the eyes and necessitated the wearing of goggles.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 22, after the word 'borough,' to insert the words 'or in the British Dominions beyond the seas or in any foreign country.'"—(*Mr. Murray.*)

Question proposed—"That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG said he thought a foreigner would be entitled to apply for a licence, but he would make inquiries, and if there was any doubt about it he would have words inserted on the Report stage to meet the case. He did not want to restrict the number of people obtaining licences, but, *primâ facie* a person ought to get his licence in the county in which he lived.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT said that, under the statute, residence meant the occupation of any property with an intention to go from and return to it. It was not a question of domicile.

Mr. LOUIS SINCLAIR thought they ought to allow a Frenchman to come to this country and get a licence as soon as possible.

Mr. WALTER LONG said that was already provided for. Provision was made in the preceding clause for reasonable facilities with regard to the taking out of car licences.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 23, to leave out the words 'one shilling,' and insert the words 'five shillings.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Questien proposed—"That the words one shilling' stand part of the clause."

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that this was really in the nature of an annual tax. He suggested that motor-cyclists should pay a reduced fee of 2s. 6d. or 1s.

for a licence, inasmuch as motor-bicyclists were, as a rule, men of very moderate means.

MR. WALTER LONG said he could not give way on this point. There was a very great distinction between motor and ordinary bicycles. They cost much more, for one thing. He was informed that a motor-bicycle worth having could not be bought for much less than £40 or £50. [AN HON. MEMBER: £28.] He did not think a charge of 5s. was excessive, especially as motor-cars made no separate contribution of their own towards the local cost of the roads.

MR. SEELY pointed out that motor-cycles had to pay an Inland Revenue tax of two guineas like other motors, and he suggested that if this fee of 5s. was put on, the right hon. Gentleman should use his influence to obtain the reduction of the tax to a more reasonable figure.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY hoped his right hon. friend would not give way. This registration fee would go some way towards recouping County Councils for their expenditure under the Act.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that motor-cycles now paid taxes as motor-cars and carriages, and paid more than a dog-cart. It was now proposed that they should pay 5s. in addition to the annual tax.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was perfectly true that the Inland Revenue charge on motor-cycles was higher than that on dog-carts, but he contended that the motor-cycle, in respect of the distance that could be covered, was equivalent at least to a dog-cart and two horses.

MR. ALLHUSEN said that motor-cycles were beginning to be used by artisans who purchased them on the hire system, and he thought it would be too much to add 5s. to the two guinea tax now paid, especially seeing that other vehicles used for trade purposes were not taxed at all.

MR. MURRAY said there was no grumbling about the proposal to charge 1s., but if in addition to the two guineas already paid there was a charge of 5s. there would be serious complaints.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said if they charged two guineas on motor-cycles they really precluded the artisan from using them. Surely the President of the Local Government Board did not put forward the argument seriously that a motor-cycle was equivalent to a dog-cart and two horses. An artisan could not use a dog-cart to bring him to his work, but he could use a motor-cycle. He appealed to his right hon. friend to reduce the charge from two guineas to 15s., which was as much as working men could afford to pay.

MR. SEELY said the President of the Local Government Board gave away his own case by the illustration of the dog-cart. A motor-cycle cost £40, but a dog-cart and two horses cost £150, and the expense of keeping them up would be three or four times as much.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 23; Noes, 89. (Division List No. 245.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Craig, Chas. Curtis (*Antrim,S.*
Dalziel, James Henry
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Healy, Timothy Michael
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu,Hon.J.Scott (*Hants.*
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Charles Murray and
Mr. Louis Sinclair.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Blundell, Colonel Henry

Brigg, John
Bull, William James
Caldwell, James
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N.R*
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S*
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Moss, Samuel
Murray Rt Hn. A Graham (*Bute*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G (*Oxford Univ.*
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Toulmin, George
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Words inserted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 23, to leave out the words 'one shilling' and insert the words 'five shillings.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 23, after the last Amendment to insert the words 'and who (if he has not already held a licence) shows to the satisfaction of the Council that he is competent to drive a motor-car.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said he wished to suggest to the President of the Local Government Board that he should add a proviso which would read: "But, nevertheless, any person may drive a motor-car for the purpose of learning to drive, if accompanied by a properly certificated person." How otherwise was anyone to learn how to drive.

MR. REMNANT said he would add to the suggestion of the hon. Member for New Forest the words "on roads to be agreed upon by the Council."

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he hoped that his hon. friend would withdraw the Amendment.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN said he also hoped that his hon. friend would not press his Amendment. The possession of a licence would be the guarantee of the competence of the driver. Hon. Members should remember that cars differed enormously; and that a man who could drive one class of car could not drive another. Yet under this clause any man would be able to get a certificate enabling him to drive any class of car. That was perfectly absurd; and the test proposed was not of the slightest advantage.

MAJOR JAMESON said he hoped the President of the Local Government Board would be able to accept an Amendment of the nature proposed.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY said that his right hon. friend knew that there were officials of Scotland Yard whose duty it was to test the skill of every applicant for a licence to drive a cab or an omnibus. That being the case, he thought a similar condition should be inserted in connection with drivers of motor-cars. He quite recognised the difficulty which had been pointed out, that there was no proper training ground; but a novice could be trained not only on private ground but also on ground selected by a County Council for that purpose.

Mr. MURRAY asked if the owner of a motor-bicycle who had also a motor-car would be required to take out two licenses.

Mr. WALTER LONG replied in the negative.

Sir CHARLES RENSHAW said that where there were only fifty or a hundred motor-cars in a county, it would be unfair to require the County Council to appoint particular officials for the purpose of supervising them.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he was quite prepared to leave the Amendment an open question to be accepted or rejected by the Committee, as they thought fit.

Mr. LOUIS SINCLAIR said that it was desirable that the Committee should understand what the Amendment meant. They were asking the County Councils to test the ability of drivers of motor-cars. [Several Hon. Members: Divide, Divide.]

*The CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. Member either to continue or to discontinue his speech.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 51; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 246.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Brigg, John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland
Caldwell, James
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott
Elibank, Master of
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*
Joyce, Michael
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spear, John Ward
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf d Univ*
Toulmin, George
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Fortescue Flannery and Mr. Thomas Bayley.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Allhusen, Aug Henry Eden
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*)
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bull, William James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalziel, James Henry
Davenport, William Bromley
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W.*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Hall, Edward Marshall
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Nicholson, William Graham
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Whiteley, H (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Frederick Banbury and Sir Charles Renshaw.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 2, line 24, to leave out the word 'section,' and insert the word 'Act.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

"In page 2, line 29, to leave out from beginning, to end of line 31."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

"In page 2, line 32, after the word 'produced,' to insert the words 'by any person driving a motor-car.'"—(*Mr. Murray.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MAJOR JAMESON thought that when a constable demanded to see a licence he should be in uniform, otherwise a motorist would not know whether he had authority or not. He was not afraid of men masquerading in uniform. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, after the word 'constable,' to insert the words 'in uniform.'"—(*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said that this was precisely the same point as the Committee had discussed earlier in the evening. He hoped the decision then arrived at would be adhered to.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, after the word 'constable,' to insert the words 'or, in the event of the licence not being in the possession of the person at the moment of demand, he shall give the constable his name and address.'"—(*Mr. Philip Foster.*)

Question proposed "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said he proposed to deal with the point by regulation.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, at end, to insert the words 'If any person fails so to produce his licence he shall be liable on summary conviction in respect of each offence to a fine not exceeding £5.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked whether under this Amendment if a man were summoned for an offence in the North of England, and had his licence locked up in the South of England, he would be liable to a fine for not producing it?

MR. WALTER LONG said that if the licence was produced within a reasonable period it would be an answer to the charge. It would be on the same basis as a gun licence in that respect.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. ALLHUSEN moved an Amendment providing that "any person who has been or shall be convicted of an offence of which drunkenness forms part shall be disqualified for obtaining a licence for a period of one year from the date of such conviction, and any licence which he held at the date of such conviction shall be cancelled by such conviction." He thought it necessary that some such provision should be inserted for the protection both of the public and of the owners of motor-cars. Everybody interested in the industry would desire that the ranks of the drivers should be purged of men addicted to drink, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to accept at any rate the principle of the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, at end, to insert the words, 'Any person who has been or shall be convicted of an offence of which drunkenness forms part shall be disqualified for obtaining a licence for a period of one year from the date of conviction, and any licence which he held at the date of such conviction shall be cancelled by such conviction.'"—(*Mr. Allhusen.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped his hon. friend would not press the Amendment. If a motor-car driver were guilty of an offence to which drunkenness contributed he would, of course, come under the first and subsequent sections of the Act. He would be rather hard on a man to prevent him driving altogether if he were found drunk on one occasion.

MAJOR JAMESON thought this the most objectionable Amendment he had ever heard of. The Habitual Drunkards Act was not in it with it. He hoped the right hon. Gentlemen would adhere to his decision.

MR. SEELY thought there was a good deal to be said for the Amendment. They had heard a good deal about the dangers of motor-cars, but surely one of the chief was a drunken man being in charge.

MR. CORRIE GRANT thought the Amendment deserved to be treated much more seriously than the right hon. Gentleman had treated it. There was a very strong feeling in favour of it.

MR. WILLIAM M'ARTHUR (Cornwall, St. Austell) presumed that before a licence was granted to a man inquiries would be made as to whether he was a proper person to hold one. Surely the proceeding would not be a mere matter of form. The matter might well be left to the discretion of the local authorities.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) hoped the Amendment would be seriously considered. It was necessary to guard the public in this matter.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY thought that if drunkenness was to disqualify a man from holding a licence, it should be drunkenness in connection with motor-car driving.

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) declared that nothing could be more dangerous than to have a man addicted to drink in charge of a motor-car, and a conviction for drunkenness ought surely to be a sufficient ground for not allowing him to have charge of one.

MR. DALZIEL agreed with the position taken up by the right hon. Gentleman. An individual who might be bad personally might still prove a good motor-car driver, and they were now only dealing with him in his capacity as a motor-car driver. Let the right hon. Gentleman accept the Act on the suggestion of the hon. Member for Shipley, and say that a conviction for drunkenness, to disqualify a man from holding a licence, should be one under the Act, and not altogether outside his capacity as a motor-car driver.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said that if the Bill dealt with horse driving he would gladly support the Amendment, and having regard to the delicate and dangerous nature of motor-car driving he thought it ought to be all the more carefully considered.

Question put

Committee divided: — Ayes, 56; Noes, 79. (Division List No. 247.)

AYES.

Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brigg, John
Caldwell, James
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cremer, William Randal
Doogan, P. C.
Duke, Henry Edward
Elibank, Master of
Farrell, James Patrick
Fyler, John Arthur
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Hall, Edward Marshall
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kilbride, Denis
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Randles, John S.
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Toulmin, George
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES— Mr. Allhusen and Mr. Burdett-Coutts.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bull, William James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*

Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J (*Birm.*
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J A.(*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Craig, Charles C. (*Antrim, S.*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalziel, James Henry
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson,Rt HnSirJ.(*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,PhilipS.(*Warwick,S.W*
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence,Sir Joseph(*Monm'th*
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks. N.R.*
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lucas,Reginald.J(*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(*Bute*
Nicholson, William Graham
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie,RtHon Chas.Thomson
Roe, Sir Thomas
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(*Renfrew*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,RtHn J.G.(*Oxf'd Univ.*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley, H.(*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Amendment proposed—

"In pages 2 and 3, to make Sub-sections 4, 5, and 6 a separate clause, with the marginal note 'Suspension of licenses and disqualification.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 30, at end, to add the words 'The council of a county or county borough may withhold for not exceeding two years from the commencement of this Act a licence to any person who has before the commencement of this Act been three or more times convicted of offences in respect of a motor-car.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY thought this matter should more properly be left to the magistrates under the powers it was proposed to confer upon them.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU suggested that some limit should be put on the time for which a licence might be suspended or a person disqualified, and that a licence should be taken away only for reckless driving to the danger of the public. To take away the licence merely for infringing the speed limit would be grossly unfair; the fines were a sufficient penalty in that case. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 30, after Sub-section 6, to insert the following sub-section:—'A licence shall only be taken away or suspended or a person disqualified for obtaining a licence in consequence of a breach of Section 1 of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. DALZIEL said that a man might drive beyond the limit under the orders of his master, and it would be very hard on him that he should lose his licence.

MR. WALTER LONG hoped the Committee would not accept the Amendment. They had created a series of offences under Clause 1, and they had laid it down that motor-cars were not to be driven above a certain speed under any circumstances. If a driver deliberately broke the law he ought to be subject to a substantial penalty.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would meet him to this extent, that for the first and second offences the licence should not be taken away. It seemed very hard that for a first offence, perhaps for going twenty-one miles an hour, a man should lose his licence.

MR. WILLIAM M'ARTHUR hoped the right hon. Gentleman would adhere to his decision. The Committee had just decided that they would not make drunkenness a ground for taking away a licence, but if a man was summoned for the comparatively small offence of exceeding the speed limit, and it was found that he was drunk, there ought surely to be power to take away his licence.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN joined in the appeal that a licence should not be taken away for a first offence. It would meet the views of many Members on that side of the House if the right hon. Gentleman would limit the suspension of the licence to the second and subsequent offences.

MR. MURRAY pointed out that if a man was drunk while in charge of a motor-car he would come under Section 1. A man's means of livelihood ought not to to be taken away unless he had done something to the danger of the public, and in that case he would be dealt with under Section 1.

MR. WILLIAM M'ARTHUR said that if the discretion of the authority were limited by the adoption of these words, drunkenness would not enter into the question of whether or not a man's licence should be taken away. A man might be blind drunk and driving a car at twenty miles an hour, but if there was nobody about he would not be putting any human being in danger, yet obviously such a man was not fit to hold a licence.

MR. ALLHUSEN hoped the hon. Member's interpretation was not correct, and that if a person was found driving a motor-car at even three miles an hour while in a state of intoxication he would be held to be driving to the danger of the public. That being so, it would be very hard that a man, perhaps for a mere technical offence, perhaps for driving twenty-one miles an hour, should be fined up to £10, and have his licence suspended for an indefinite period. That was really carrying the penalty too far.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that on reconsideration he thought this Amendment ought to come up as an Amendment to the new clause, which would be composed of the old Sub-sections 4, 5 and 6.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 30, at end, to insert the words, 'Any person under the age of 16 years shall be disqualified from obtaining a licence, and any person who already holds a licence shall be disqualified from obtaining another licence while the licence so held by him remains in force.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

MR. ARTHUR MORTON (Deptford) moved to amend the Amendment by substituting 17 for 16 as the age. He should be sorry to say anything disparaging about the age of 16, but he thought it would be wise to extend the age to 17, because motor-car driving demanded qualities which one could hardly expect to find in a lad of 16 years of age. He begged to move as an Amendment to the proposed Amendment, to leave out "16" in order to insert "17."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, to leave out the word 'sixteen' and insert the word 'seventeen.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Morton.*)

Question proposed, "that the word 'sixteen' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said this provision would apply to motor-bicyclists, and such a restriction of age in that case might conceivably be a hardship.

MR. WALTER LONG said that point had not been fully considered. He would further consider it, and, if necessary, deal with it on Report.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU thought that 16 was a very fair age.

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR, in moving the first Amendment, said that if a man forged a mark he should have a stronger punishment than was provided for under this Act, instead of being fined £10 only. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 31, to leave out the words 'forges or fraudulently.'" — (*Mr. Louis Sinclair*).

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped his hon. friend would not persevere in his Amendment. The forging dealt with in this case was not the ordinary case of forgery done with the intention of perpetrating a fraud.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 32, after the word 'or' insert the words 'knowingly and.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu*).

Question proposed, That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he could not accept this Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

MR. KENNETH BALFOUR said it was possible for an accident to happen without the knowledge of the driver of a motor-car, and without him having seen anything of it. Unless some such words as he suggested were inserted he thought many difficulties would arise.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 36, after the word 'occurs,' to insert the words 'within his view or to his knowledge.'"—(*Mr. Kenneth Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG could not accept this Amendment, but said he would be willing, when the Committee came to the latter part of the clause, to make it read "and if any person knowingly acts in contravention of this section he shall be liable, &c."

Mr. Louis Sinclair.

MR. KENNETH BALFOUR said he was willing to accept the right hon. Gentleman's suggestion.

*MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.) hoped no Amendment would be made of the nature suggested. If such an Amendment were agreed to, when a motor-car came into collision and caused an accident of any kind, the defence would always be that the driver knew nothing about it, that he was not aware of it, and that he was not aware that he had committed any offence.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said if a motorist going along the road passed a horse which became restive, and if he was careful not to look behind to see whether the horse went into the ditch, he would always be able to plead that it was not with his knowledge the accident occurred. Surely it would be better to leave this as it stood. If an accident did occur of which a motorist could not be expected to know, he would be able to prove his case in Court.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said if the driver of a motor-car did not stop, not knowing that an accident had occurred, he surely ought not to be deemed guilty of the offence of not stopping.

MR. DALZIEL thought it ought not to be supposed that motorists were inclined to be perjurers, or that they were bigger liars than any other class.

MR. GORDON said that under the clause as it stood the onus of proving that the motorist knew of the accident would be put on the prosecutor. He was anxious that the public should be protected, and he would suggest the insertion of the following words "unless he satisfies the Court that he did not see or know of the accident at the time it occurred." That would have the effect of putting on the motorist the onus of proving that he did not know.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said his impression was that it would be better to leave the clause as it stood. The circumstances of the accident would speak for themselves in most cases. He would consider his hon. friend's suggestion, but he hoped in the meantime that the Committee would not accept the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said there were cases in which unattended horses ran away on the slightest provocation, and he thought motorists ought to have some protection in respect of such animals. He begged to move—

Amendment proposed—

In page 3, lines 36 and 37, to leave out the words "owing to the presence of the motor-car on the road."—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said he thought the drivers of motor-cars should be safeguarded from being penalised for something that occurred through no fault of their own.

MR. WALTER LONG said his hon. friend was under a misapprehension in moving this Amendment. If these words were not left in, the driver would be under obligation to stop, no matter what might be the nature of the accident If a boy fell off a fence and broke his arm, the driver would have to stop.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. BRIGG moved to leave out "if required" and insert "shall." He thought in cases where accidents occurred the driver should be obliged to give his name and address.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 37, to leave out the words 'if required,' and insert the word 'shall.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said the obligation was thrown on the driver to give his name and address, and also that of the owner, if requested. He hoped the Amendment would not be pressed.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 38, after the word 'owner,' to insert the words 'and the registration mark or number.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said that in the ordinary case the car must be stopped, and anyone could see the registration mark or number for himself. In these circumstances, the Amendment was unnecessary.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 39, after the word 'person,' to insert the word 'knowingly.'" — (*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY moved an Amendment with the object of leaving it to the discretion of the magistrates to inflict imprisonment if they thought proper in cases of contravention of this clause.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 40, to leave out from the word 'be,' to end of clause, and insert the words 'guilty of an offence under this Act.'"—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped his hon. friend would not insist on this Amendment. After very careful consideration it was thought that the penalties stated in the clause would meet the necessities of the case. This particular clause was specially exempted from the provisions of Clause 9 in regard to penalties.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.), said if a man drove away, knowing that an accident had occurred, he ought to be punished. For the first offence he would be fined, but on a second conviction the magistrates should have power to send him to prison.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 41, to leave out the word 'ten,' and insert the word 'fifty.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'ten' stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said he thought it was hardly desirable to go on adding to these penalties. They had all been very carefully considered, and under Clause 1 they had created a series of offences and imposed very severe penalties, including imprisonment.

MR. BRIGG said that he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that nothing could be more cowardly, or more mean than that, after an accident had occurred, a man, who had knowledge of the occurence, should take advantage of the speed of his motor to ride off in the endeavour to evade justice, and leave those who might be suffering as the result of his negligence unattended to. The newspapers proved that that was being done every day. If a man did this once or twice fine him by all means; but if he deliberately behaved in such a reprehensible manner a third time, then he deserved imprisonment, and at any rate it should be left to the option of the magistrate to send him to prison.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 42, at end, to add the words 'and, in respect of any subsequent offence, shall be subject to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month.'"—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that everyone would agree with the remarks of the hon. Member with regard to motorists who passed on when an accident happened, but he thought they should be very careful not to push the penalties too far in respect of a new offence which converted into a crime what was now only a breach of good feeling.

MR. WILLIAM McARTHUR said this was exactly the class of case which most infuriated the people in the country against motor-cars. An accident occurred, and it was said that the trouble had arisen through the presence of the motor-car in the road, and the people in the car had gone off without rendering any assistance or disclosing their identity. They were not now imposing a tremendous penalty, they were simply proposing to leave it to the magistrate to say how a man who had, on three occasions by the presence of his motor-car in the road, caused an accident and shown himself to be so absolutely callous as to run away without leaving his name and address, should be dealt with. He had no claim to speak for gentlemen who owned motors, but he knew some who did, and he did not believe that there was a sensible man who would object to this provision being inserted. He hoped the Government would accept the Amendment.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU was understood to say that he rather agreed with what had just been said. He would not object to the proposal of imprisonment for repeated offences; nothing did so much harm to motoring as a man who drove away after an accident without disclosing his identity, but he hoped that when the penal clauses were reached his friendly attitude to this Amendment would be remembered.

MR. T. M. HEALY said this Bill would apply to two countries and possibly would be made to apply to Ireland. He wished to know, supposing a motorist had been convicted of an offence in Scotland and had come down and been convicted of an offence in England and had gone over to Ireland, carrying the hump upon his back of these two convictions, and committed an offence there, could they produce those convictions which had taken place in two other countries against him? He would like the Attorney-General of England, out of the vast store of his learning, to explain to him the petty sessions law upon that subject.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the case raised by the hon. Member was certainly new, but looking at it, not from the point of view of his learning but from the point of view of common sense, he should say that if a man had committed an offence in Scotland he had committed one offence, that if he then committed a similar offence in Northumberland he would have committed a second offence, and that if then he went to Ireland and committed a similar offence he would have committed a third.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND suggested in view of what had fallen from the hon. and learned Gentleman, that it should be left to the discretion of the magistrate to impose a fine of £30 or inflict a month's imprisonment.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that if the Committee was in favour of the Amendment, so far as the Government was concerned there would be no difficulty.

MR. KENNETH BALFOUR said this clause stated that in any case when an accident occurred, either to horses or people, the person driving a motor-car was to stop. In the case of a horse, which was standing unattended, running away down the road, was the motor-car to pursue and catch that horse or to stop?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said a horse running away was not in itself an accident, but if its running away caused an accident then the motor-car must stop.

MR. WILLIAM McARTHUR asked whether the hon. and learned Gentleman could not make the clause more clear by stating that a motor-car must stop where an accident was caused by an unattended horse running away and not by the motor-car.

MAJOR JAMESON objected to the hon. and learned Gentleman accepting this Amendment. The hon. and learned Gentleman was utterly unable to answer the question which had been put to him, and therefore he (Major Jameson) should certainly divide the House against the Amendment.

*MR. MOSS hoped it would not be necessary to divide the House on this Amendment. No motorist, however enthusiastic he might be, would suggest that a motorist should escape by a mere fine. He knew of a case where a motorist sent his driver to the clerk of the magistrates to offer him a cheque for £100 with instructions that when it had been all used in fines, if they would send round, they should have another cheque.

Question put, and agreed to.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW said before the clause was passed he would like to ask the Government to give the Committee some information as to what the position would be under the clause in the case of a person driving a motor-car meeting unattended horses and carts. That seemed to be unconsidered, in a measure, when this clause was drafted. He hoped it might yet be possible to alter the clause in such a manner before the Report stage as to make it perfectly clear that a liability would not accrue if a man did not stop where a horse or cart was unattended on the road.

MR. ARTHUR LEE said he had had experience of his cars, when standing perfectly still, being charged by a horse and damage being done to the car in consequence.

MR. WALTER LONG agreed that the language of the clause was a little vague. It was a new clause which had been introduced in the other House and afterwards amended. It required reconstruction, and he would consider it before Report.

MAJOR JAMESON objected to this clause being hurried through in such a manner. It was admitted that its language was vague, and that being the case he opposed its passage and would move its omission. It was a perfect disgrace to civilisation that such a clause should be put into a Bill without anyone having the pluck to stand up and say that they disagreed with a motorist being penalised in this way.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 10, after the word 'entry,' to insert the words 'and giving.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. SHAW-STEWART (Renfrewshire, E.) said there were two strong objections to the lights now carried by motor cars. One was they were far too dazzling to people using narrow roads on a dark night, and the other was that in the opinion of many these lights were only carried to enable motor-cars to go at an excessive speed on dark and foggy nights. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would put some check upon this matter. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 15, at end, to insert 'with respect to the size and power of the lights to be used on motor cars; and.'"—(*Mr. Shaw-Stewart.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG said he hoped in the regulations he proposed to devise there would not only be some special regulations with regard to lights, but also with regard to other questions. He hoped to greatly lessen some of the discomforts now felt by users of the roads.

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU said if they had the best light it was possible to devise, on a foggy night it was of no assistance to enable them to go at a high speed, because a strong lamp was no use in a fog.

Major JAMESON expressed the opinion that it was absurd that the Committee should be asked to lay down how much light people should be allowed to carry on dark and foggy nights. It was most astonishing to him that anyone should suggest to motorists as to how far they were to see at nights, and how much light they should have for that purpose. He should certainly oppose the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 19, after the second word 'licenses,' to insert the words 'and for providing special facilities for granting licenses to persons not resident in the United Kingdom.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. T. M. HEALY thought that this Amendment would have a most extraordinary effect. There was not a man on a County Council of Ireland who knew anything about a motor-car or who would know anything about issuing licences for motor-cars.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 19, after the word 'licences,' to insert the words 'and for communicating particulars thereof to adjoining or other County or County Borough Councils.'"—(*Mr. Brigg.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked if this Amendment meant that minute information should be conveyed, for instance, from the County Council of Sussex to the County Council of Aberdeenshire.

Mr. WALTER LONG explained that it was simply in order that one County Council could communicate with another if necessary.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. WALTER LONG said this Amendment was to provide for two things—one was the change of ownership of the car, which would entail, of course, the necessity of re-registration, and the other was to provide for the issue of a signed copy of the licence where the original licence had been lost. That was a matter he had promised to provide for in an earlier stage of the Bill. It would now be necessary to put in words to make re-registration consequential at a nominal fee, but that could be better done on Report. He begged to move—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 24, at end of line, to insert the words 'and may if authorised by those regulations and in accordance therewith charge in respect of the entry of particulars of the ownership of a car on change of ownership such fee, not exceeding ten shillings, as may be prescribed by the regulations, and in respect of the issue of a new licence in the place of a licence lost or defaced, such fee not exceeding one shilling as may be prescribed by the regulations.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked if in the case of a motor-bicycle changing hands the fee would be as high as 10s.

MR. SEELY suggested that in case of a motor-bicycle the fee might be 2s. 6d.

MR. WALTER LONG promised to consider the suggestion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7.

MR. DALZIEL said in order to get an interpretation of the clause he moved its omission.

*THE CHAIRMAN thought it would be better to wait until they arrived at the stage when the clause was put as a whole, at present there were Amendments to be considered.

MR. GRANT LAWSON said the object of his Amendment was that boroughs over 10,000 inhabitants which were at present the authorities under the "Light Locomotive Act" should be the authorities under this Bill. As the clause stood at present even the City of London was not included in the clause. What he wished to do was to omit in the first sub-section, after the word "application" the words, "Of the Council of the County or County Boroughs" and in their place insert "the local authority."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, after the word 'application' to leave out the words, 'of the Council of the County or County Borough' and insert the words 'the local authority.'"—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. T. M. HEALY said he was in favour of this Amendment, because in the case of Dublin it would shift the responsibility on to the shoulders of the corporation.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that, as the Bill stood, the application to the Local Government Board to fix particular places at which the speed should not exceed ten miles was quite against the principle of local goverment. It was felt very strongly that that matter should rest with the local authority because it was a purely local question, and they could be the only people with local knowledge. He welcomed any material improvement in the Bill, and therefore did not propose to move any Amendment now.

MR. DALZIEL said he desired to point out that there might be a case of three County Councils acting together to make representations. This matter required very serious consideration, as a strong anti-mobilist feeling throughout the country might result in doing away altogether with the speed limit.

MR. WALTER LONG said the clause was limited to particular places, in respect of which it was thought desirable to make special regulations.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW said that when they reached the application of the clause to Scotland, the Amendment would have a most serious effect with regard to the administration of the Act in that country.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked was there no power in the central authority to co-ordinate the action of the various authorities?

MR. WALTER LONG: Yes, we hav a power of co-ordination.

Question put, and negatived.

Words inserted.

MR. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek) said it had now been decided that twenty miles an hour should be the legal maximum, but the terrors of our country roads would be considerably increased if the driver were allowed to travel at that pace by night. Bright nights were few and far between, and some special provision was needed on dark nights for the public protection. It should be remembered that the driver would not be able to see a person holding up his hand to stop him, and he hoped that his Amendment would be accepted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 30, after the word 'situate' to insert the words 'or at any time during which lights are required to be carried.'"—(*Mr. Bill.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG hoped that the Amendment would not be pressed. He thought the hon. Member was more likely to secure the public safety by leaving the driver to drive at night, knowing that a very slight increase in speed would bring him within Section 1.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Major JAMESON had on the Paper an Amendment to the clause in line 31, after "exceed" to insert "such speed as may be approved by the Local Government Board," but he said that after the explanations they had had from the right hon Gentleman in charge of the Bill he would not move it.

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU moved that the limit of speed to be enforced by regulations under this section should be extended from ten miles an hour to twelve. In London a good hansom was often driven at twelve miles an hour, and it would be ridiculous to limit a motor-car to ten miles. They must look ahead a little bit.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 31, to leave out the word 'ten,' and insert the word 'twelve.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'ten' stand part of the clause."

Mr. WILLIAM M'ARTHUR pointed out that in some places traffic was much congested by big works which were proceeding, and though the limitation might be imposed during congestion, it could be withdrawn when the works were completed.

Mr. T. M. HEALY thought the matter had better be left in the hands of the Department.

Mr. MURRAY reminded the Committee that tram-cars in the Metropolitan area were not limited to ten miles an hour.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL thought it hard that in a clear street the motor-car should be limited to ten miles.

Mr. WALTER LONG resisted the Amendment. Hon. Members apparently overlooked the fact that these regulations would have to be made by the local authorities which would have knowledge of the districts, and in many cases no doubt they would make no regulations. He would also like to point out that there were many gentlemen who thought that the limit should be as low as eight miles an hour. They might safely leave the matter to the local authorities. While his hon. friend asked that the limit should be increased, others would ask for it to be decreased, and he thought in the general interest it would be advisable to take ten as a compromise. As to tram-cars, they were not limited as far as he knew, and moreover, they ran on rails.

Mr. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN thought the fact that other vehicles were allowed to go at twelve miles an hour was a strong argument in favour of this limit being fixed at twelve.

Mr. ARTHUR LEE urged the right hon. Gentleman to accept the suggestion of the hon. and learned Member for North Louth, that the cars "should not exceed the speed prescribed."

Mr. T. M. HEALY pointed out that in Ireland the electric trams were limited to eight miles an hour even outside the city.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should do as he did on Clause 1. Some Members favoured a limit of twelve miles, others preferred eight; let the right hon. Gentleman stick to ten as a compromise between the two.

Mr. GORDON was in favour of the matter being left to the Local Government Board. A very moderate rate of speed was sufficient in populous districts and urban areas, and a hard and fast limit was not desirable.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said that if it was to be a question of ten miles or nothing obvious difficulties would arise. The London County Council would be placed in a very difficult position if they had to decide whether or not, in the parks under their control, the speed should be limited to ten miles an hour or not at all. Surely it would be possible to meet all parties by inserting words enabling the local authority and the Local Government Board, in conference, to fix such a limit between eight and twelve miles as might seem to them desirable.

MR. WALTER LONG thought that the Committee hardly realised what the proposal was. It was suggested that his Department should undertake a duty in regard to motor-cars similar to that discharged by the Board of Trade in regard to tramways. The cases were entirely different. It was an easy matter to lay down what the speed on a tramway should be, but to say what the speed of motor-cars should be in scores of places throughout the country was a duty the Local Government Board could not possibly undertake. Personally, he should vote for ten miles, which was the compromise, but the Committee could make their own decision between ten and twelve. He must ask them, however, not to adopt the suggestion that a general and open power should be left to the Local Government Board.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said that in many places the trams went at fifteen miles an hour, so that, if the motors were limited to ten, the trams would charge the motors, and not the motors the trams. He suggested the matter should be left to the local authority without any restriction whatever.

MR. MURRAY asked whether there would be power to fix varying rates, such as seven, eight, or ten.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Not to exceed ten miles an hour.

MR. MURRAY: They could not say six or eight?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: No.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that in order to take the opinion of the Committee he would move to substitute "twelve" for "ten."

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 97; Noes, 26. (Division List No. 248.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Foster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (*Worc.*
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flower, Ernest
Forster, William Henry
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Horniman, Frederick John
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kilbride, Denis
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N R*
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos. Myles
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)

Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot,RtHn.J.G(*Oxford Univ*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Toulmin, George
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, H.(*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen,AugustusH'nryEden
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balfour,Kenneth R.(*Christch.*)
Craig,CharlesCurris(*Antrim,S*
Dalziel, James Henry
Elibank, Master of
Foster,PhilipS.(*Warwick,S.W*
Greene,W. Raymond (*Cambs.*)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Healy, Timothy Michael
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Lee,ArthurH(*Hants.,Fareham*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Samuel, Herbert L.(*Cleveland*)
Seely,Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Stanley,Hn. Arthur(*Ormskirk*
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thompson,Dr.EC(*Monagh'nN*

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Scott-Montagu and
Mr. Griffith-Boscawen.

MR. DALZIEL said that after a sitting of twelve-and-a-half hours, during which there had been no obstruction but a careful discussion of the points in a difficult Bill, he did not think it was unreasonable now to ask for an adjournment of the debate. They had now arrived at a part of the measure which required serious consideration, and he asked the right hon. Gentleman to be content with what he had got up to the present. This was a very important Bill, and it was not right to hurry through the Committee stage a measure which was only placed before them during the present week. They had only been given a few days to prepare their Amendments and it was not right, at an hour when the country would not know through the Press what they were doing, to pass such important penalties as those contained in the next part of the measure. He could understand the right hon. Gentleman's desire to pass this Bill, but hon. Members were not responsible for the management of the business of the House, and if the Government so managed affairs that they had not been able to find time for the consideration of this Bill at a reasonable hour it was not their fault. It was not fair to tire and exhaust the House by asking them to sit any longer, and he begged to move that Progress be now reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

MR. WALTER LONG expressed the earnest hope that the hon. Member would not press his Motion. He agreed that it was very hard that they should be asked to proceed with matters of great importance at this late hour, but they had a certain amount of work to get through. They had now got through the most contentious and difficult part of the measure, and he hoped the Committee would now agree to finish it.

MR. SEELY said that if the Government were reasonable and did not insist upon such heavy penalties he thought they would get through with the Bill much quicker. The Government had given way in the case of the speed limit and he thought they might do the same with regard to the penalties.

MR. DALZIEL said that, as the Committee apparently desired to finish the Bill, he would ask leave to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MAJOR JAMESON appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to accept the next Amendment, which he begged to move—

"In page 4, line 34, to leave out the word 'ten,' and insert the word 'five.'" — (*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed "That the word 'ten' stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG said he hoped the hon. and gallant Member would not press this Amendment. Other hon.

Members had set an example by refraining from moving similar Amendments.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 37, to leave out the words 'county' or county borough,' and insert the words 'local authority within the area.'"—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 39, after the word 'public' to insert the words 'and conspicuous notice by day and lighted by night.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said that what he suggested was that the necessary notices should be given by posts, differently coloured, as in the case of railway signals.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR thought that as a matter of justice the notices ought to be lighted at night with white or red lamps. If coloured posts were placed at the roadside a stranger would not know at night where he ought to slow down.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 41, to leave out from the word 'regulation,' to end of line, and insert the words 'No prosecution shall be made in the event of an offence being committed whereby, in consequence of fog, or insufficient light, the owner shall have been prevented from conforming with this regulation.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped his hon. friend would not press this Amendment. If they were to provide for all sorts of unlikely conditions a much longer Bill would be required.

MR. T. M. HEALY said it appeared to him the meaning of this Amendment was that every District Council in Connemara should erect posts with luminous white paint.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said Subsection 3 Clause 7, ran as follows:—

"The Local Government Board may, without any application from the Council of the County or County Borough, after considering any objections by the Council of the County or County Borough, revoke or alter any regulation made by them under this section."

He thought motor-car owners ought also to have a *locus standi* and an appeal against injurious regulations which might be inflicted on them. He moved.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 2, after the word 'borough,' to insert the words 'or motor-car owner.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the Government could not accept the Amendment.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said objections might be raised by motor-car owners as well as by the Council of a County or a County Borough.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 6, at beginning, to insert the words 'Subject to regulation as to size and colours to be made by the Local Government Board.'"—(*Sir Charles Renshaw.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. T. M. HEALY said there were few motor-cars in Ireland, and it would be absurd to impose on County Councils, everywhere, the expense of erecting danger boards. So far as England was concerned it should be enacted that Councils of Counties and County Boroughs "shall" erect danger boards, but the word should be "may" with regard to Ireland.

Mr. WALTER LONG said his hon. friend's suggestion was that the Local Government Board should prescribe a general system with respect to size and colour. Whether they were used or not would depend on the recommendations of the Local Government Board.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 6, after the word 'of' to insert the words 'boroughs and elsewhere than in boroughs of.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 6, to leave out the words 'and county boroughs.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause" put, and agreed to.

Mr. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) said he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would accept his Amendment, which was intended to prevent very serious danger in narrow roads.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 6, after the word 'boroughs' to insert the words 'may prohibit motor-cars above any width which they consider necessary for safety from entering any narrow road within their areas, and may cause to be put up signposts to give notice to this effect, and.'"—(*Mr. Wylie.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG said that he thought the Amendment was unnecessary.

Mr. DALZIEL agreed with the right hon. Gentlemen. No motorist would want to go up a narrow cross road.

Mr. WALTER LONG thought that a clause was needed to provide against the danger mentioned, and promised to introduce one into the Bill.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 8, after the word 'places' to insert the words 'on main roads where the surface is being re-metalled before rolling, and.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that newly laid metal was very dangerous for all kinds of traffic. Most counties already had adopted such a system.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he hoped that his hon. friend would not press his Amendment. It would put the local authorities to unnecessary expense.

Question put, and negatived.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9.

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that he had a small drafting Amendment which he thought would make the section clearer.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 10, after the word 'under,' to insert the words 'Section 1 of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WALTER LONG said that the Amendment was quite unnecessary.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that he wished to make a protest against the severity of the penal clauses.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 12, to leave out the word 'twenty,' and insert the word 'ten.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'twenty' stand part of the clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG said that this question of penalties was an exceedingly difficult one and it was proposed to make certain changes in them. In the first place, it was intended to alter the term of six months' imprisonment to three, and in the second place, to give an appeal to any person convicted of an offence under the Bill, and fined £10.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the concessions he had made, and he begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Several formal Amendments having been withdrawn,

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10.

MR. WALTER LONG proposed to omit the clause. It had been intended to deal with the heavier motors, but he thought it would be the wisest plan to drop the clause, and to bring up words on Report to enable the Local Government Board to deal with the whole of the heavier motor traffic by regulation.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, to leave out Clause 10."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked what was to be the policy of the Inland Revenue authorities in the matter of charges on motor-cycles.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was in communication with the authorities at the present time, and hoped to be able to answer the Question on Report.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clauses 12 and 13 agreed to.

Clause 14.

MR. ARTHUR LEE asked as to the position of Volunteers under the Bill.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY Lancashire, Westhoughton): Motor-cars used during manœuvres will undoubtedly have to conform to the law.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked why it was necessary in a Motor-Car Bill to insert a provision that it should apply to servants of the Crown.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said it was done in consequence of a decision given in the Courts a fortnight ago.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked if the police would be subject to the provisions of the Bill. If they were, how could they pursue cars which were exceeding the speed limit.

MR. T. M. HEALY again protested against the insertion of this provision. He held that the point was covered by the ordinary law of the land, and that it would be most dangerous to attempt to deal with it especially in this Bill.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the result of the recent decision was such that motor legislation would not apply to persons in the service of the Crown—for instance, to persons in the employ of the Postmaster-General driving motor-cars. Tested by that decision the Volunteers using motor-cars during manœuvres would not be subject to the provision.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND certainly thought the provision should be left in the Bill, as the Postmaster-General was using motor-cars more and more every day. It would be no earthly consolation to a person knocked down by a motor-car that it was driven by a servant of the Crown. He for one objected to being killed by motorists—whether M.P.'s or servants of the Crown.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL thought it would be most absurd to make a constable liable for breaking the speed limit when he was chasing an offender under the Act.

MR. T. M. HEALY repeated his protest that it was most dangerous and unconstitutional to insert such a provision. Simply to meet the curse of motor-cycling they were inserting in the law of England a constitutional proposition, the like of which had never been heard of since the days of the Stuarts and the Tudors.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY held that the hon. and learned Gentleman much exaggerated the importance of the clause. He could not see that it raised any constitutional question at all. A servant of the Crown certainly ought not to be exempt from regulations laid down by law for the safety of the public. He suggested that the matter could be met by deleting the clause. The hon. Member opposite was quite right in saying that it was absolutely necessary to declare that a criminal statute should apply to the Crown.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he did not care in what legal form the words were put into the Act, but something should be done, as the Bill at present stood. At the present time a decision had been given by which men were exempted from the penalties to which they had rendered themselves liable by an offence under the Motor Act, on the ground that they were officers of the Crown. If that decision was to stand, Ministers of the Crown would be able to defy the law with impunity. Not very long ago he saw a decision in the case of a motor-car which had been driven at a frightful speed by officers in uniform, where the drivers of the car were exempted from penalties, and he had heard comments made upon the fact that men in uniform should be allowed to set such a bad example. When it came to this, that officers of the Crown were to be exempted, something ought to be done to prevent them being exempted in the future.

MR. T. M. HEALY suggested they should add after the word "Crown" that the penalties already in the Act should bind such persons. Let the Government then amend the clause in Report if they liked, but the clause should state what ought to be the law, and what he conceived was already the law.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he could not accede to the hon. Gentleman's suggestion, but he would consider the matter and see what could be done.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said perhaps he might be allowed to move his Amendment here.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 37, after the word 'Crown,' to insert the words 'and to the police.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Sir Robert Finlay.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. DALZIEL said he hoped the Committee would not accept this Amendment. It meant that officers of State could ride off if they liked and be exempt from penalties.

Question put, and negatived.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16.

Several drafting Amendments proposed by the Lord Advocate (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire), were agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 29, at end, to insert the words 'Such appeal shall lie to the sheriff depute and shall be heard summarily. Such appeal may be taken either immediately after the judgment appealed against has been pronounced, or within seven days thereafter, and upon such appeal being taken the sentence of imprisonment shall be suspended until the appeal has been disposed of; provided that the appellant shall, at the time of taking such appeal, lodge in the hands of the clerk of Court a bond with sufficient cautioner or otherwise give security satisfactory to the Court for appearing before the sheriff depute. The sheriff depute is hereby authorised and empowered on such appeal to hear evidence whether led at the original hearing or not, and to reconsider the merits of the case and reverse or confirm in whole or in part the judgment appealed against, or give such new or different judgment as he in his discretion shall think fit; and save as provided by the Summary Prosecutions Appeals (Scotland) Act, 1875, his judgment shall be final and not subject to review. (6) An appeal taken in terms of this Act by a person holding a licence against an order for suspension or disqualification shall be taken and disposed of as nearly as may be in the manner and subject to the conditions provided by the immediately preceding sub-section.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

THE MASTER OF ELIBANK (Edinburgh, Midlothian), in the absence of the hon. Member for Forfar, begged leave to move the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 29, at end, to insert the words '(6) Section ninety-four of The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889 (which relates to the recovery and application of penalties under that Act) shall apply to the recovery and application of penalties in respect of offences under this Act, and the principal Act, and in respect of breaches of any by-law or regulation made under either of said Acts.'"—(*The Master of Elibank.*)

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said the first part of the Amendment he would see put right, but the other part he could not agree to

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DALZIEL said he thought his Amendment was next on the Paper. His object in putting it down was to raise the question of the right of individuals to sue.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said as the Bill stood they did not prosecute except through the procurator fiscal.

Clause 16, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17.

MAJOR JAMESON said he wished to move an Amendment to insert at the end of Clause 17 the words "The Criminal Evidence Act of 1898, except sections five and seven, shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be in force." Its object was to allow all those people who were to be penalised in this extraordinary way, to give evidence on their own behalf on oath. He felt certain the hon. and learned Attorney-General would accept this Amendment. He begged to move—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, at the end of Clause 17, to add the words 'The Criminal Evidence Act of 1898 except Sections five and seven shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be in force.'"—(*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said in special cases the defendant had always a right to give evidence.

MR. T. M. HEALY: With respect, assured the hon. and learned Gentleman that that was not so.

MR. ATKINSON said in ordinary cases of summary jurisdiction the defendant could give evidence.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he could assure the hon. and learned Gentleman that was not so. Let him take the recent case that occurred in Sackville Street, Dublin. In this case the magistrate refused to hear the evidence of Sir Samuel Smart. Unless there was a special clause inserted a prisoner would not be allowed to give evidence in his own defence. He suggested that as under the law in England a man was able to give evidence on his own behalf, it could not be wrong to allow him to do so in Ireland.

MR. ATKINSON said if the Amendment was necessary he would introduce it on Report.

MAJOR JAMESON withdrew his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Clause 18.

THE MASTER OF ELIBANK said he would formally move the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Leicester, which he presumed would be accepted by the right hon. Gentleman.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 3, after the word 'car' to insert the words 'and a motor-cycle and its trailer shall for the purposes of this Act be treated as one vehicle.'"—(*The Master of Elibank.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said this was the point to which he had referred as being likely to affect the Inland Revenue Department. He could not, therefore, accept the Amendment without consulting that Department.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked was it not the fact that a motor-cycle with a trailer, under the present regulations, could only go five or six miles an hour.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he understood the object of the mover of the Amendment, but this proposal would go a great deal further and deal with the Inland Revenue question. He could not possibly accept the Amendment at this point, but he would undertake to give the matter full consideration.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said it was just as bad to be knocked down by a tramcar as by a motor-car. It was an extraordinary thing that tram companies who made money out of the public should be allowed to go at a more rapid rate than the motor-cars. The same rule ought to be applied all round, and if it was in order he would move accordingly.

*The CHAIRMAN said that such an Amendment would be beyond the scope of the Bill, which dealt only with motor-cars.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that an electric tramcar was essentially a motor-car, and the tram-driver was called the "motor-man."

*The CHAIRMAN: But there is a class of legislation dealing with tramways.

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU pointed out that several private Acts had recently been passed, enabling motor-omnibuses or trams to run without rails on the roads. These were, to all intents and purposes, motor-cars.

*The CHAIRMAN: There has been no public legislation to that effect.

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that several places had obtained Acts for the purpose.

*The CHAIRMAN said the Acts referred to were private Acts. This Bill was to amend the Locomotives on Highways Act, which did not include tramways.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU moved to insert "March 1st" for "January 1st," as the date of the commencement of the operation of the Act. He pointed out that it was a very complicated measure, and by the time it had been printed and circulated amongst the County Councils there would be barely three months in which the necessary arrangements for the administration of the Act would have to be made. He thought it was only reasonable that six months should be allowed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 8, to leave out the word 'January' and to insert the word 'March.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'January' stand part of the clause."

Mr. WALTER LONG said he had no particular feeling in the matter himself, but he had been pressed to take exactly the opposite course to that proposed by the hon. Member, and to bring the Act into force earlier than January next. He did not think there would be any practical difficulty in bringing it into operation in January, and he should advise the Committee to adhere to the date proposed in the Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 18 agreed to.

MR. LUKE WHITE (Yorkshire, E.R., Buckrose), on behalf of the hon. Member for Inverness, moved a new clause standing on the Paper which he understood the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to accept.

Clause (Power to local authority to regulate use of roads).

"In the case of a public road or part of a public road which is of a less width than twenty feet, the Council of any County or County Borough may with the consent of the Local Government Board make such regulations in regard to the use of such road or part of a road by motor-cars as they may consider desirable; and the Council of any County or County Borough may with such consent schedule certain roads as unsuitable for motor traffic, and may issue regulations prohibiting motor traffic on such roads."—(*Mr. Luke White.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WALTER LONG said he had not agreed to accept this. What he had said was that he would consider words to be brought up on Report dealing with so much of the question as he thought ought to be dealt with.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU, on behalf of the hon. member for Southport, moved a new clause—"Mode of Summons." He said it was simply to prevent persons frivolously taking out summonses.

Clause (Mode of Summons).

"No summons shall be issued against any person for an offence under this Act except upon an information in writing signed by the complainant and countersigned by the clerk to the justices, and no summons shall be issued by a justice or justices except during the sessions of the petty sessional Court." — (*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY did not think the clause would give any such security as the hon. Member desired. There was no reason why these cases should be dealt with other than in the ordinary way.

MR. DALZIEL said that if the clause were adopted it would ensure that there was some sort of a case for a summons.

MR. SEELY thought that if there was no legal objection to the clause it would be advisable to insert it.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said there was a strong legal objection to providing a special procedure for these cases.

MR. MURRAY said it could hardly be held that these cases were not exceptional; the whole Bill was exceptional.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said that something ought to be done in the direction suggested, otherwise motorists would have people calling at their houses and threatening to take out summonses unless they were given money.

MR. DALZIEL said that it was only reasonable that a man should bring his grievance into open Court, and bring it within a reasonable time. He was surprised that the Government would not accept this Amendment.

Question put.

"The Committee divided: Ayes, 19; Noes 89." (Division List No. 249.)

AYES.

Allhusen,AugustusH'nryEden
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*)
Dalziel, James Henry
Elibank, Master of
Greene, Raymond- (*Cambs.*)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rickett, J. Compton
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thompson, Dr. EC (*Monagh'nN*

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Scott-Montagu and
Mr. Charles Seely.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S.*
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Healy, Timothy Michael
Horniman, Frederick John
Kilbride, Denis
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, NR*
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
Moss, Samuel
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (*Bute*
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert (*Cleveland*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancashire*)
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Clause (Duration):—

"This Act shall continue in force till the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and six, and no longer, unless Parliament shall otherwise determine."—(*Mr. Murray.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause (Exemptions):—

"A medical man driving a motor-car or cycle for the purpose of attending a patient who is in urgent need of his assistance shall not be liable to any penalties for exceeding the limit of speed provided under this Act."—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WALTER LONG said he hoped his hon. friend would not press this clause. The average medical man using his own car would be in his own district and would be the last person the authorities would think of proceeding against.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said he founded this proposal upon several cases where doctors had been called upon to attend urgent cases, and were summoned and actually fined for driving too fast. He thought that was a very hard case. He had received letters from a number of doctors upon this point.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he had a new clause to propose as follows: "That nothing in this Act shall apply to the present Prime Minister." (Laughter.)

Bill reported, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 317.]

RAILWAYS (ELECTRICAL POWER) BILL

Read the third time and passed.

SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN AND WAR CONTRIBUTION BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1901-2.

Resolutions reported.

Whereas it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz.:—(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £205,224 2s. 6d., as shown in column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £220,819 4s. 1d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy expenditure by the net sum of £15,595 1s. 7d.; (*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Grants for Navy Services fell short of the total estimated receipts by the sum of £89,584 0s. 11d., as shown in column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule, while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded Services fell short of the gross estimated the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £168,173 16s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule, so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £78,589 15s. 9d.; (*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows viz.:—

		£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses	-	275,779	5	11
Total Deficits	-	181,594	8	7
Net Surplus	-	£94,184	17	4

And whereas the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations-in-Aid, in respect of the same services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

1. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1901–1902. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations-in-Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Wages, &c. of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines	39,328 19 8	..	6,168 16 10	..
2	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	3,749 7 0	..	..	13,753 19 1
3	Medical Establishments and Services	..	11,570 2 0	..	503 10 2
4	Martial Law	921 10 3	..	..	38 4 6
5	Educational Services	..	5,831 15 5	2 14 8	..
6	Scientific Services	742 5 10	..	..	3,247 1 5
7	Royal Naval Reserve	..	45,773 16 10	..	82 14 4
8	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.				
Sec. 1	Personnel	18,822 18 5	..	..	886 3 1
Sec. 2	Materiel	86,826 19 8	..	..	70,164 7 1
Sec. 3	Contract Work	..	77,974 15 9	36,800 10 11	..
9	Naval Armaments	..	24,989 10 0	..	57,440 0 0
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad	..	38,324 12 9	..	22,052 7 3
11	Miscellaneous Effective Services	35,940 0 9	..	44,329 6 10	..
12	Admiralty Office	4,975 6 7	..	..	5 9 9
13	Half-Pay, Reserved and Retired Pay	..	16,354 11 4	824 12 0	..
14	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	6,314 19 7	..	1,445 12 9	..
15	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	3,704 13 11	..	12 6 11	..
	Amount written off as irrecoverable	3,897 0 10	..	..	..
		205,224 2 6	220,819 4 1	89,584 0 11	168,173 16 8
		Net Surplus, £15,595 1 7		Net Surplus, £78,589 15 9	
	Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer			£94,184 17 4	

Whereas it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—(*a.*) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £4,796,909 14s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £2,923,978 7s. 2d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services exceeded the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £1,872,931 7s. 9d.; (*b.*) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £235,231 13s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £2,362,289 3s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £2,127,057 10s. 2d.; (*c.*) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army

Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses -	3,773,058	9	4
Total Deficits -	3,518,932	6	11
Net Surplus -	£254,126	2	5

And whereas by a Vote of Parliament during the present Session (House of Commons Paper, No. 255, of 1903) a further sum of £100 has been granted for the expenditure of the year 1901–2 and the appropriation of additional receipts in aid of such expenditure has been sanctioned to the amount of £1,872,831 7s. 9d.

And whereas the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

2. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE.

Number of Vote.	Army Services, 1901-1902. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations-in-Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure. 1.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure. 2.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 3.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts. 4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, &c., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments) ..	689,068 5 6	..	227,385 3 1	..
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, &c. ..	99,267 3 7	..	..	2,770 9 3
3	Militia - Pay, Bounty, &c.	..	1,066,248 1 8	7,802 5 5	..
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances..	..	141,624 16 8	..	0 6 6
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances ..	..	24,276 14 2	..	1,275 12 7
6	Transport and Remounts	2,285,301 19 3	..	..	168,046 2 7
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies ..	1,506,875 16 0	..	..	1,168,151 11 0
8	Clothing Establishments, and Services ..	..	160,802 17 3	..	79,147 18 4
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair	..	1,110,777 16 11	..	378,456 18 6
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services ..	41,394 3 9	..	..	33,895 11 6
11	Establishments for Military Education ..	..	6,188 4 0	..	3,514 16 11
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services.. ..	54,448 5 8	..	..	425,727 14 9
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges	24,676 10 0	..	..	315 16 4
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, &c. ..	..	414,059 16 6	..	23,207 5 8
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, &c. ..	81,166 9 4	..	..	77,778 19 9
16	Superannuation, Compensation, & Compassionate Allowances	1,565 3 1	..	44 5 0	..
	Balances irrecoverable	13,145 18 9	..	..	..
		4,796,909 14 11	2,923,978 7 2	235,231 13 6	2,362,289 3 8
	Add Excess Vote	..	100 0 0	..	..
		4,796,909 14 11	2,924,078 7 2	235,231 13 6	2,362,289 3 8
		Net Deficit, £1,872,831 7 9		Net Surplus, £2,127,057 10 2	
				Net Surplus ... £254,226 2 5	

Resolutions agreed to.

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS EXPENSES BILL.

Read the second time, and committed for Monday next.

SUPPLY [3RD AUGUST, EVENING SITTING].

Resolutions reported.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

1. "That the sum, not exceeding £530,000 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for the pay, etc., of the medical establishment, and for Medicines, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

2. "That the sum, not exceeding £1,838,000 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for transport and

remounts, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

3. That a sum, not exceeding £1,822,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for clothing establishments and services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1903–4.

CLASS VII.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for a grant in aid of the expenses incurred in connection with the visit of the President of the French Republic in England in July, 1903."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £123,334, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Ireland Development Grant (Grant-in-Aid).

ARMY (EXCESSES), 1901–2.

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £100, be granted to His Majesty, to make good excesses of Army expenditure beyond the grants, for the year ending on the 31st day of March 1902."

Resolutions read a second time.

First two Resolutions agreed to.

Third Resolution postponed.

Subsequent Resolutions agreed to.

Postponed Resolution to be considered upon Monday next.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES BILL [LORDS].

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

SHEEP SCAB BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered; Bill read the third time, and passed.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered; Bill read the third time, and passed.

MARRIAGES LEGALISATION BILL.

As amended, considered; Bill read the third time, and passed.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

Resolved, That the Statement of the estimated expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1903–4 be approved.—(*Mr. Pretyman.*)

ADJOURNMENT.

Resolved, That this House, at the rising of the House this day, do adjourn till Monday next.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, MR. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Three o'clock a.m. till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 10th August, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill. Read 3a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Bradford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Salford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

PETITIONS.

ARMY.

Petition against putting any part of the cost of troops in South Africa on the Indian revenue; of Indians resident in London, &c.; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

HIS HIGHNESS MAHENDRA MAHARAZA MADHAVA SINGH.

Petition for redress of grievances; of His Highness Mahendra Maharaza Mdahava Singh, *de jure* Ruling Chief of Panna, in Central India; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3056. France (Lyons, St. Etienne, and Grenoble); No. 3057. Portugal (Madeira).

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

No. 595. Report on the German Veterinary High Schools.

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Report for the year 1903, by Sir Henry Craik, K.C.B.

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1902.

Correspondence relating to the proposed publication of the Report of the proceedings of the Colonial Conference in London in 1902.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Statistics of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1902.

COAL SUPPLIES (ROYAL COMMISSION).

First Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of the coal resources of the United Kingdom—

Vol. I.—Report.

Vol. II.—Minutes of Evidence and Appendix.

Vol. III.—Supplement.

STATISTICS.

Statistical abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1888 to 1902. Fiftieth number.

Statistical abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1888 to 1902. Fortieth number.

Statistical tables relating to the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom. Part XXVI., for the year 1901.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Return for the month of March 1903; Return for the month of April 1903. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Licence granted to Michael Connell, a convict, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of the Penal Servitude Act, 1864.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.

Order of the Local Government Board for Scotland constituting the local authority for the burgh of Glasgow, the Port Local Authority of the Port of Glasgow.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

RAILWAYS (ELECTRICAL POWER) BILL.

Read 1a; to be printed; and to be read 2a to-morrow.—(*The Lord Wolverton*). (No. 202.)

SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN AND WAR CONTRIBUTION BILL.

Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Duke of Marlborough.*) (No. 203.)

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Earl of Hardwicke.*) (No. 204.)

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Lord President*) (*D. Devonshire*) (No. 205.)

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL (No. 206).

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL (No. 207).

Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Lord Balfour.*)

MARRIAGES LEGALISATION BILL.

Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow.—(*The Lord Belper.*) (No. 208.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for the remainder of the session.

THE RETURN OF KANAKAS FROM AUSTRALIA.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My noble friend Lord Ribblesdale had promised to ask the Question standing on the Paper in the name of Lord Lamington, and he, in his turn, owing to his inability to be present, has passed it on to me. I beg, on behalf of Lord Lamington, to ask His Majesty's Government whether a copy of the regulations issued to secure the safe return from Australia of Kanakas to the South Sea Islands cannot now be laid on the Table of the House.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (The Duke of MARLBOROUGH): My Lords, under the terms of the Pacific Islands Labourers Act the immigration of Kanakas into Queensland from the Pacific Islands is automatically restricted. I gather from the Question of the noble Lord that it is to those Kanakas who have remained in Queensland for many years that he especially refers. Apparently there are between 3,000 and 5,000 of them, and the part of the Act which deals with them does not come into operation until 1907, and they cannot be deported from Queensland until that year. In the meantime, the Governor-General of Australia is empowered to draw up regulations for the deportation of these Kanakas. These regulations have to be laid before the Australian Houses of Parliament or they have to appear in the *Gazette.* No regulations have been received by His Majesty's Government, and, as far as we are aware, none have been issued. But owing to the great interest which the noble Lord who put this Question on the Paper takes in this question, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has no objection to communicating with the Governor-General of Australia, with the view of ascertaining whether any regulations have been drawn up, and, if not, when they are likely to be drawn up, and of asking to be furnished with a copy of such regulations as soon as they have been issued and laid before both Houses of the Australian Parliament.

I might, perhaps, add, in order to set the noble Lord's mind at rest, and remove any apprehension he may have as to the manner in which these Kanakas will be treated, that only recently we received from the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific a despatch in which he stated that the Australian Government had assured him that, although they had power under the Pacific Islands Labourers Act to deport these Kanakas, they had no desire to do so in such a way as to cause them any great inconvenience. This view of the High Commissioner is thoroughly endorsed by a despatch from Mr. Deakin, copies of which have already been laid before your Lordships' House in the papers connected with the Pacific Islands Labourers Act. In his despatch Mr. Deakin distinctly stated that, although the Australian Government consider the retention of 4,000 or 5,000 of these Kanakas less serious than their constant emigration into Queensland, yet at the same time their retention is undoubtedly contrary to the principle of a "white Australia." He went on further to add that it was not part of the policy of Parliament to deal hardly with these

Kanakas; but that on the contrary, when deportation was found to be necessary, it would be accomplished in such a manner as to ensure their safety and welfare.

Noble Lords opposite are well aware that this question of Pacific Island labour has excited a considerable amount of interest in Australia, and when the Pacific Islands Labourers Bill was brought before the Australian Houses of Parliament last year its principle was endorsed by both Parties in the State without a division. The only difference of opinion which existed at all was, as to the time which should be allowed to elapse when employment of Kanakas should be entirely done away with. Last year the Colonial Office suggested to the Governor-General of Australia that he should put himself in communication with the Commissioner of the New Hebrides and the Resident Commissioner of the Solomon Islands, with a view to ascertaining whether they would be prepared, when the time came for these Kanakas to be deported, to receive them in their Islands. The Commissioner of the New Hebrides has recently visited Queensland for the purpose of becoming more acquainted with the Kanakas, and with a view to making arrangements for their deportation to his Islands; and, in addition, the Resident Commissioner of the Solomon Islands has promised that he will receive them into his Islands when the occasion occurs.

I have only mentioned these facts in order to remind your Lordships of the attitude of the Australian Government towards these Kanakas. While the Australian Government hold to the principle of removing the South Sea Island labourers from Australian territory, at the same time they desire to do so in a manner which will be both humane and conducive to the well-being of the Kanakas. We know also that the Colonial Office have not been unmindful of the welfare of the Kanakas, from the fact that they only recently communicated with the Governor-General of Australia on this matter. I think, therefore, we may assume that, when the regulations which the noble Lord refers to are drawn up and issued by the Governor-General of Australia, it will be found that they are of such a nature as to ensure the safety, well-being, and future security of the Kanakas when they have to be removed from Australian territory.

LORD STANMORE: Do I understand the noble Duke to say, with regard to that large body of Kanakas, or so-called Kanakas, who have married and settled in Queensland, many of whom have been born there, and who are practically civilised, that none of them will be removed from Queensland for the next four years, and that then it is the intention of the Queensland Government when the roots they have already struck in the Colony are more deeply seated, to deport these semi-civilised subjects to the South Sea Islands?

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: Perhaps I ought to have explained that there is a clause in the Pacific Islands Labourers Act the operation of which is such as to enable all Kanakas who had been in Queensland prior to 1879 to remain there. They do not come under the operation of the Act.

POACHING IN IRELAND.

***LORD ARDILAUN**: My Lords, in recent years the take of fish in many rivers in Ireland has seriously declined, and those best qualified to judge attribute this largely to poaching. The object of all connected with fisheries is to put down poaching, which is very common in Ireland To effect this is exceedingly difficult and expensive, entailing night watching in sufficient force, as the poachers go in strong parties. They are only caught in a very small percentage of cases, but when caught the poacher is tried by the Petty Sessions Court. As to the procedure, I will quote the words of a well-known legal authority:

> "If the poacher is an old bird who has been up many times before and knows the ropes, he will appeal from the Petty Sessions to the Quarter Sessions. From the Quarter Sessions, where counsel has been employed on both sides, he will appeal to the Lord-Lieutenant, and when his fine has been remitted he has the satisfaction of knowing that his prosecutors have been doubly mulcted in costs, and that they are not likely to interfere with his lucrative pursuit for a considerable time to come."

The procedure, inasmuch as its abuse defeats the whole object of the fishery laws, is of some little interest. When a conviction has been obtained at the Petty Sessions, the defendant, if he does not appeal to a higher Court, sends his memorial, signed either by himself or by persons living in the district, to the Lord-Lieutenant, giving the reasons why he considers he is entitled to a mitigation of the penalty. He may plead poverty (the professional poacher seldom omits this plea), or that it was his first conviction, or he may absolutely deny the truth of the charge. The memorial is forwarded from the Chief Secretary's office to the Fishery Branch of the Department of the Board of Agriculture, who in their turn send a form to the Board of Fishery Conservators containing questions relating to the case. The secretary of the board answers these questions, and gives in addition the opinion of the conservators as to whether the fine should be remitted or reduced. Nothing further is heard of the matter until the result of His Excellency's opinion as to whether the fine should be remitted or not is made known. In the vast majority of cases the fines are reduced to a nominal amount. In many cases they are remitted altogether. And so in this way a slap in the face is administered to the Board of Conservators or the riparian owner, or whoever prosecuted, for spending large sums of money in interfering with the liberty of poachers and others to destroy spawning fish and to deplete our rivers, an industry which the Fishery Branch of the Board of Agriculture and successive Lords-Lieutenant appear anxious to encourage.

Allow me to give your Lordships an instance of which I have personal knowledge. On October 18th, 1899, a certain Patrick Walsh was fined £1 at Maam Petty Sessions and ordered to pay 2s. 6d. costs in two separate cases. The defendant appealed to the Oughterard Quarter Sessions, held on January 16th, 1900, where the magistrates' orders were confirmed. The usual memorial was then sent to the Lord Lieutenant, who reduced both fines to 10s. The owner, on the other hand, had the following little bill to settle: Cost of submitting case for advice and opinion of counsel, £4 17s. 4d.; solicitors' costs for attending Maam Petty Sessions three times and Oughterard Quarter Sessions once, £19; witnesses' expenses for attending Maam Petty Sessions three times and Oughterard Quarter Sessions once, £4; total, £27 17s. 4d. In this, as in nearly every case, the poacher distinctly scores. A fine of £2 or £3, even if he had to pay it, would not, in view of the expenses involved in prosecuting him, deter him from continuing his paying pursuit. I could quote many similar cases to your Lordships.

Then there is the class of cases in which, when convicted by either or both Courts, the poacher declines to pay the fine and goes to prison, and appeals to the Lord Lieutenant. Such a case is that of James Hanrahan, of Limerick district. He was fined £4 for spearing spawning salmon in January of this year. The order came—

> "His Excellency decides that he be discharged from prison."

These modes of dealing with convicted poachers are most unfair and unjust to those endeavouring to improve fisheries, give employment, and increase the food supply, and involve a three-fold injury—the destruction of millions of ova, direct money loss to the Board of Conservators which cripples their action, and the reduction of half the penalties given to the bailiffs; and, I may add, it demoralises and discourages the watchers. In the last seven years, in the Limerick district, the fines inflicted by the magistrates amounted to £1,352. On application to the Lord Lieutenant these fines were reduced to £289, and the costs of solicitors amounted to £166, and of witnesses to £85, so that, in all, the Board lost during those seven years £1,458 by direct remissions of the Lord Lieutenant.

If the administration of the law is thus to be paralysed, there will be no use in prosecuting poachers. I do not know who advises the Lord Lieutenant. I am not making any attack upon him personally. I am only referring to the great injustice which is perpetrated in his name. We all know that those who occupy the position of Lord Lieutenant are always men of high position and high honour, and many of them, no doubt, hold fisheries of their own, and I am sure they would not sanction this laxity against Irish owners of fisheries. Possibly the person who advises the Lord Lieutenant has done a little poaching in his own day, and has some sympathy, therefore, with the offenders I hope the Government will grant the Return. If we had the Return in the form in which I ask for it, we should be able to look into the matter and discuss it with complete knowledge. The figures I have, only refer to two or three districts. The Limerick Board have declined to prosecute any more poachers, and whenever a poacher is caught and his name is sent to the Fishery Board, they take no action in the matter. In other districts the same thing, no doubt, obtains. I trust that the Return will be granted, and the matter thoroughly inquired into.

Moved—For a Return in the following form:—

FISHERY RETURNS.

District.	Penalties. Petty Sessions.	Amounts of Fines in each Case.	Solicitors' Costs against Plaintiffs.	Witnesses' Expenses.	Reduced on Memorial to Lord Lieutenant.

Summary, showing result of Columns.—(*Lord Ardilaun.*)

*LORD MASSY: My Lords, as a member of the Limerick Board of Conservators, I endorse every word that has fallen from my noble friend. We have 1,200 miles of river under our jurisdiction, and a very small income with which to safeguard it. The total amount of income is, I think, £2,500 a year, which is derived from fishery licences, the fines when inflicted and enforced, some few voluntary subscriptions, and a 10 per cent. valuation upon the fisheries of riparian owners. With that limited income and 1,200 miles of river to guard, we can only afford to put on fifty bailiffs in the open time and 140 in the close time. It is very hard with that number of bailiffs to catch these poachers, and when they are caught it is heartbreaking to find that nearly all the fines are remitted. The last two cases which, so to speak, broke the camel's back, occurred on a tributary of the Shannon. Two men were caught spearing salmon in the close time and were fined £4 each. One could not pay and was sent to gaol, and the other paid; but they petitioned the Lord-Lieutenant, and in the one case the man was ordered to be released from gaol, and in the other the fine was remitted. A deadlock has now arisen between the Limerick Board of Conservators and the Fishery Board. As we refuse to prosecute we send up the cases to the Fishery Board, and they reply declining to prosecute also; so that the poacher has an absolutely free and unfettered hand.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I regret extremely that the noble Lord who usually represents the Irish Office is not in his place this evening, perhaps owing to the fact that we have met at an unusual hour, or because the absorbing nature of other Irish business which has engaged us, has overshadowed these comparatively minor matters. But I may say, in reply to the noble Lord who called attention to this subject, that I realise as fully as he does the immense importance of protecting the Irish salmon fisheries. Indeed, in some observations I made the other evening on Clause 13 of the Land Bill, I stated very distinctly what my feelings were on the subject. All that I can promise the noble Lord is that I will bring his representations to the attention of the Irish Government. Whether they will be able to supply the information that he desires in the form which he suggests I am, of course, not able to say without further advice; but I will certainly undertake to bring to the knowledge of the Irish Government the facts and the figures he has laid before the House.

*LORD ARDILAUN: I beg to move for the Return standing in my name.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE): I had hoped that the noble Lord would have acquiesced in the remarks made by the noble Marquess and withdrawn his Motion. So far as I have looked at the Return on the Paper, it would be quite impossible to give it. There is no date, and it would be blind and misleading. It asks for the number of cases and the amounts that were involved, but nothing would be more misleading without the reasons that were operating on the Lord Lieutenant, and it would be quite impossible to give those reasons. The Lord Lieutenant goes into the cases with great care, the reports of the magistrates are fully considered, and everything is weighed and balanced before any decision is arrived at. Without indicating what were the reasons, which it would be quite impossible to give, the Return would be most misleading.

*LORD ARDILAUN: I consent to my Motion being withdrawn on the conditions mentioned by the noble Marquess

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, this Bill will, I hope, close the controversy which has centred round the administration of the Royal Patriotic Fund. It establishes a body, on which every county and county borough will be represented, to deal with all questions of administration, and it establishes an executive body on which the main work will devolve. It has, I think, been accepted as a solution of the question by the public generally, and by the other House, and I hope your Lordships will consent to pass the Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, I feel that the Bill should not be read a second time without some member of the present Patriotic Fund Commission saying a word or two upon it. Personally, I gladly welcome the introduction of this Bill. I am strongly of opinion that it was most desirable that localities should be more distinctly represented on the Commission, and I sincerely hope and believe that a body constituted in the manner proposed by this Bill will have the public confidence, and will enable large funds to be collected for the benefit of the widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors. I am very glad to see that the Lords-Lieutenant of counties have been introduced, as well as the chairmen of County Councils, and I am glad to see that since the Bill was read a first time in another place, provision has been made to constitute local committees to manage local funds. The difficulty has been experienced hitherto of avoiding overlapping of local and general funds, but when we get a central body such as is proposed to be constituted by this Bill, with a very large general council representing the localities, this danger will be largely minimised, if not entirely avoided. I am glad the Government have seen their way to introduce this Bill, and I am sure it will tend to the conciliation of public feeling and the increase of the funds at the disposal of the Commission.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I only rise to say two words with regard to this Bill. I have been connected in several ways with the Patriotic Fund, chiefly in my position as First Lord of the Admiralty and in raising funds during the South African War, and I have felt that there was a strong necessity for introducing this measure. Perhaps the committee is a somewhat large and cumbrous one; but I cannot see how this is to be avoided, and therefore I cordially support the proposals made in the Bill I entirely bear out what the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees has said about this matter. The great thing is to get local interest enlisted. When we had to collect funds for the widows and orphans of those who had fallen in the late war, it was perfectly impossible in the localities in which I had to work to get people to understand the work of the Patriotic Fund. I think this will be greatly obviated by the way in which the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation will be constituted under this Bill, and I give it my support.

*LORD WELBY: My Lords, as a member of the Patriotic Fund of many years' standing, I entirely associate myself with what has fallen from the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees. I think the time has come when it is necessary to change the constitution of the body which administers the voluntary relief given to the widows and orphans of our soldiers and sailors. The form the Bill has taken is one which is completely satisfactory to the Patriotic Fund Commissioners, and I am glad that now an opportunity has been found for terminating a controversy which, I think, has gone on almost too long. I hope the new body will carry on to the satisfaction of the public, the great object for which the Patriotic Fund exists.

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to order): Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith. House in Committee accordingly. Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived. Bill read 3ª, and passed.

SUGAR CONVENTION BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I must preface the observations which I have to address to your Lordships on this Bill by an expression of my regret that we have not been able to lay it before your Lordships earlier in the session; but, as your Lordships are aware, we are not entirely masters of the situation; I have, moreover, the consolation of knowing that we cannot be accused of springing upon the House a subject which you have not had an opportunity of considering. If there had been within the last few months a desire to embark on the discussion of this subject, your Lordships had the power to initiate such a discussion. The Bill deals with a highly controversial question, but up to a certain point I think we may say there is unanimity as to its object. I believe no Member of this House will be found to contradict me when I say that bounties of the kind we are discussing are a bad and objectionable institution which we shall all be glad to get rid of. We should never dream of introducing them ourselves; we believe that they represent protection in the most dangerous and insidious form, that they are bad for the people who have to submit to them in the interests of a privileged class, and bad for the countries with which the bounty-giving country does business, because they disturb the course of trade, and deny to the public facilities for obtaining what they want at its natural price. If we could by a stroke of the pen or the application of the sponge obliterate and wipe out the bounty system, root and branch, we should be glad to do so. That is the policy which I believe has prevailed for many years past in this country, and has found acceptance by all Parties in politics.

The chronology of this question is a long record of unsuccessful attempts to bring about the removal of the bounty system by international action. There have been sugar conferences in London in 1862 and 1863, the following year in Paris, in London in 1865, and in Brussels in 1866. In 1868 and 1869 there were conferences at The Hague, in 1872 in London, in 1873 in Paris, in 1875 in Brussels, in 1876 and 1877 in Paris, in 1887 and 1888 in London, and in 1890 again in Brussels. In all these international discussions we have been desirous of bringing about the abolition of bounties, and we have always failed of success in achieving the desired end. Meanwhile the evil has been steadily increasing. In 1896-97 the Continental bounties were doubled, and, sheltered behind the system of direct and indirect bounties, there grew up a system of cartels, or trade combinations, which have been able, under cover of bounties received by the producers of sugar, and under cover of the wide difference between Customs and Excise duties in bounty-giving countries, to force up prices in their own markets and to inundate other countries with bounty-fed sugar, of which they were able to dispose often at considerably below cost price. The result has been a violent disturbance of the sugar trade affecting the commerce of the whole world, and affecting the interests of this country in particular. It did this in two directions, it affected the sugar-refining industry in this country and it affected the sugar-producing industry of our West Indian colonies.

In regard to sugar refineries, all I can say to your Lordships is that one after another refineries in London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Greenock were closed, that the number of people employed fell enormously, and that British refined sugar, to a large extent, has been driven out of the market. With regard to the West Indies, I am sure your Lordships are familiar with the interesting Report of the Royal Commission of 1897, and it is not necessary for me to quote that Report at length. I may summarise the substance by reminding you that the finding of the Commission was to the effect that the depression prevailing in the West Indies was mainly due to the competition of bounty-fed sugar, and was not due to extravagant or imperfect manufacture; that this depression resulted in the abandonment of many West Indian estates and in great distress among the labouring population, and in a condition of things under which the Governments of our sugar colonies found themselves in many cases unable to meet the expenses of administration. In some of our West Indian Islands the Commissioners found that no other industry could take the place of sugar cultivation, while in others enterprises of different kinds had eventually taken the place of the sugar industry, but only after periods of transition, characterised by great suffering and a painful and inconvenient disturbance of trade.

The Royal Commission reported that the best remedy for this deplorable condition of things was the abandonment of the system of bounties by Continental States. The suggestion has often been made that the West Indian planters should accept the inevitable and turn their attention to the discovery of other industries. In some parts of the West Indies no other outlets are possible, and even where such are possible, is it not fair to say there will be grievous hardships occasioned to those who have to close their factories, alter the whole character of their plant, and whose employees will have to unlearn one industry and learn another? And when the new outlet has been found, what security is there that the new industry may not fall a victim to the same unfair competition, and that we may not find, one after another, all the available outlets closed to our industry and enterprise? Each time the change takes place some non-bounty-fed industry is sure to disappear and to be crushed out of existence.

These were the circumstances which prevailed when, in 1901, we were asked to take part in yet another Sugar Conference. We considered our position very carefully, and we came to the conclusion, having before us the object-lesson of former failures, that we would not take part in the Conference if it was to be a mere parade movement. We thought we should be playing a more honourable part if we were to proclaim our indifference and abstain altogether, than if we were to join the Conference and take part in its proceedings in such a manner as to add one more to the already too long list of failures. We took part in the Conference; we instructed our representative to express our readiness to resort, if necessary, to penal legislation; and the Conference was not a failure, but a success. It led to the Convention of last year, to which all the more imporant sugar-producing Powers, as your Lordships know, gave their adhesion. The main points in the Brussels Convention were these: The Powers undertook to co-operate for the suppression of all bounties, direct or indirect; to limit the surtax, by which I mean the difference between the Customs and Excise duties in the bounty-giving countries; to appoint a permanent Commission, whose duty it should be to decide in cases of dispute whether any country gave a bounty, and, if so, what was the amount of that bounty; and, finally, to accept a clause binding them all to penalise bounty-fed sugar. The policy of the Convention was accepted by the House of Commons of this country, which passed a Resolution to that effect last year, and this spring we ratified the Convention.

I observe that the noble Earl opposite intends to move the rejection of this Bill. I can fully understand, knowing as I do something of his opinions, that he should desire to enter his protest against the conduct of the Government in this matter; but I cannot believe that he really desires that the Bill should not become law. We could not abstain from passing it into law except by a grievous breach of faith with the other adhering Powers—a breach of faith to which I cannot bring myself to believe the noble Lords opposite would desire to be parties.

The main provision of the Bill enables us to prohibit the entrance into this country of sugar which the permanent Commission has reported to be bounty-fed. It is important to bear in mind the extent to which this proposed prohibition is likely to operate. Prohibition would obviously be a very inconvenient remedy if it were to be directed against the sugar produced in any large sugar exporting country. But in this case we have not to deal with the countries which produce large quantities of sugar. They have all joined the Convention. Of the Powers which have not adhered to the Convention, one only—Russia—exports sugar to this country in any appreciable quantity. But should it become desirable hereafter to resort to the alternative remedy of the imposition of countervailing duties we take power to do so, but only after coming to Parliament.

What are the objections raised against the Bill? We are told, in the first place, that by becoming parties to this Convention we have parted with our fiscal independence. Surely that argument proves rather too much. If giving our adherence to an international contract of this kind is considered as parting with our fiscal independence, do we not do so in every case where we enter into commercial agreements with other countries? The essence of all contracts is a certain abandonment of one's right to independent action, and the only question that seems to me to be worth raising on that aspect of the case is whether we are tying our hands for a laudable purpose, and whether we are doing so within reasonable and safe limits. As to the purpose, I have already spoken. As to the limits, let me remind the House that this permanent Commission, to which we are alleged to have delivered ourselves body and soul, is only entrusted with the duty of simply determining the fact whether in any given case a bounty has or has not been given by a sugar-producing Power, and, if so, what amount of countervailing duty should be imposed if it is desired to neutralise it by means of a countervailing duty. There is another safeguard on which we have a right to insist—the stipulation in the Convention that that Convention itself comes to an end at the end of five years unless it is renewed.

We have heard many apprehensions expressed to the effect that the abolition of bounties will involve the complete disappearance of cheap sugar in this country, and as a consequence the ruin of our sugar industries. I shall not say a word in disparagement of those industries, or of their importance. But I am altogether unable to share the alarm that has been expressed, and I must say that I find some difficulty in exactly comprehending the attitude of some of those who offer this criticism, because I understand that they would be delighted to get rid of bounties if they could do so simply by negotiation or remonstrance; but what they would shrink from is the process of getting rid of them by the threat of penal legislation. I will venture to suggest that the consequences, to the sugar industries of this country and to those who desire to buy cheap sugar, will be precisely the same whether the bounties disappear as the result of negotiation or remonstrance, or whether they disappear, as we hope they will, under this Convention as the consequence of the threat of penal legislation.

My own strong conviction is that it is altogether incorrect to maintain that the retention of the bounties will certainly give us a permanent supply of cheap sugar, or that the removal of the bounties will certainly lead to a permanent enhancement of the price. As to the first of these propositions, do noble Lords opposite seriously believe that, supposing the bounties remain as they are, we shall be allowed for all time to obtain a large supply of sugar below cost price? I do not for a moment believe it. Sugar has been at extremely low quotations, mainly as the effect of these bounties, but in the last few weeks I am told that it rose from 6s. per cwt. to 8s. 3d. Perhaps I shall be told that this is the effect of the signature of the Convention, but I do not believe that, because I am informed on the best authority that you can buy at the price which I have quoted, the sugar of next year's crop, a fact which seems to prove that no very extensive upward movement is anticipated by the market as the result of the abolition of the bounties.

But the effect of the bounties—and this cannot be too much insisted upon—has been not to give a constant supply of cheap sugar, but to produce perpetual fluctuations and oscillations. I believe I am right in saying that within the last few years sugar has been as high as 27s. per cwt., and as low as 6s., or even less. In these cases the movement of prices has been exactly what one has a right to expect in such circumstances. You begin with the stimulus of these bounties. That leads to an immense over-production and glutted markets. That, again, brings about a fall of prices. The fall of prices naturally leads to a restriction of output, and the restriction of output leads to a rise in price. That is the obvious sequence of events, and that is what our experience has shown has been the case in the sugar trade. Can anyone believe that the Continental sugar producers would allow us permanently to buy sugar from them at below the cost price when they once have complete control of the market? My firm conviction is that if sugar below cost price is to be regarded as a privilege, it is a privilege which we hold on a most precarious tenure. If the bounties had been allowed to remain we should have had the same fluctuations in price in the future as we have had in the past—the same uncertainty and disturbance of trade; and at each crisis, as the price reached the lowest mark, we should have had the same ruin and suffering amongst those engaged in the sugar trade.

If the maintenance of bounties will not lead to cheap sugar, neither does the removal of bounties mean dearer sugar. There is no reason whatever for believing that a return to natural prices —and that is the consequence which we anticipate from this measure—will put the price above the average of recent years. But even if there were some slight increase in the price, it would be more than compensated for by a steady scale of prices in the future, instead of constant fluctuations. It is said that because these bounties cost the nations who give them about £9,000,000 a year, that sum finds its way into the pockets of the consumers in this country. That is an absolutely unsustainable position. The producer who receives bounties keeps the subvention in his pocket as long as he can. He sells his sugar as near the market price as possible; and when he wishes to undersell his competitor he will do it by the smallest amount necessary to drive that competitor out of the market. The producer will not, out of his liberality, transfer to the consumer a farthing more of the bounty than he is obliged to do; and it is only when sugar is sold below cost price that the producer begins to part with any part of the bounty.

As to the attitude of the sugar industries in this country towards these proposals, I have heard with regret that some of them regard this measure with disfavour. But that has not always been their opinion. With reference to the Convention of 1889 for the abolition of bounties, Messrs. James Keiller Son—a firm so well known for the excellence of its preserves—said—

> "The abolition of bounties will not injure the fruit-growing, fruit-preserving, and confectionery trades of this country; but will confer a direct benefit on them by giving them ultimately a cheaper as well as a more regular and more reliable supply of sugar."

Another firm, Messrs. Batger & Co., wrote:—

> "After a short interval this kingdom would be provided with a larger, a better, a cheaper, and a more reliable supply of sugar than it has ever yet had; and if once real free trade in sugar be established, we shall not again be liable to any such sudden and immense rise as that which is now paralysing the confectionery and allied trades."

The Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, in which the sugar industries were well represented, passed a resolution by a large majority at their Congress in 1900, calling on the Government to enter into a convention for the abolition of bounties. The resolution was in the following terms:—

> "That this Congress thinks the time has fully arrived for a settlement of the sugar bounty question, and requests Her Majesty's Government to enter, as soon as practicable, into a convention with Austria, Germany and other Powers who have expressed their willingness to abolish bounties, such convention to contain a penal clause prohibiting the entry of bounty-fed sugar into the territories of the contracting Powers."

If the members of the sugar trades have changed their minds, I can only attribute it to the demoralising influence which the receipt of artificial aid of this kind exerts upon those who receive and become used to it. We hold strongly the belief that these bounties are a misfortune to those who receive them, and to those who do business with the recipients. We regard them "as a burden to the State which resorts to this method of feeding and fostering industries; as an injury to the domestic consumer; as an unsettling factor in the trade of the world; and as one of the most injurious quack nostrums with which the philosophy of protection has afflicted modern States." Those, my Lords, are not my words, but the words of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. We do not believe that the removal of the bounties will ruin our sugar industries; and if we are to lose for the moment by the disappearance of sugar placed on the market below cost price, we shall gain by the stability of price in future, and by the development of new sources of supply, including our West Indian Colonies. It will be no small satisfaction to us to have borne a part in destroying a scandal and abuse which could not have been destroyed without the loyal and hearty co-operation which His Majesty's Government were able to afford in this case.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2a."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne*).

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, in November last I asked the Government whether they proposed to give the House of Lords an opportunity of discussing this Convention; and the reply was that there would be an opportunity when the Bill was introduced. Your Lordships have waited for the Bill, and we have a very sorry reward for our patience. Considering that this Convention was made in March of last year, there have been ample opportunities for introducing this Bill earlier. The House is put in not only an embarrassing, but a humiliating position in having to deal with so important a subject in the last few days of the session.

A Bill of this sort is of enormous importance to the policy and interest of the country, and, though it is true your Lordships cannot interfere with the details of its finance, you can throw the Bill out if you choose. Your Lordships' House stands in a more independent position than the other House, inasmuch as we have not passed a Resolution on the subject. I cannot agree with the noble Marquess that it would be a breach of honour or of faith if we did not pass the Bill. Article XII. of the Convention begins by saying that the—

> "Fulfilment of the mutual engagements contained in the present Convention is subordinate, as far as it is necessary, to the customs, formalities, and requirements established by the constitutional laws of each of the contracting parties."

And are not the customs, formalities, and requirements established by our Constitution contained in the fact that Parliament has the right to give its opinion on these matters and to absolutely refuse to ratify the Convention if it thought fit? Therefore, I cannot see any breach of faith or honour in rejecting this Bill; and, as the noble Marquess has challenged me on the point, I think I shall be able to show how much I dislike the Bill, and nothing would give me greater satisfaction than that your Lordships should throw out the Bill.

The general policy of the measure is to check or stop bounties in sugar. I at once say, that in this country we should never, as free traders, initiate bounties; but we find bounties prevailing to a very considerable extent in the colonies. Can we go any further than this? Are we such international philanthropists that we are ready to step in to save other countries from the severe penalties which we believe they incur owing to this bounty system, at the expense of very great loss to ourselves? The noble Marquess minimised the loss which this policy would entail; but there are others of great authority who declare that the loss to this country will range from between £7,000,000 and £15,000,000 a year if this Bill becomes law. I see the noble Marquess smiles, but I shall come back to this point presently. It has been said that this Convention is a triumph of free trade. As far as I can make out, the Convention itself adopts absolutely protective doctrines. It provides for "the efficacious protection of the market of each producing country" by the principle of the surtax, which is a serious imposition of duty. I find that the chairman of the British Sugar Refiners' Association, writing to the noble Marquess, says he is asked to point out—

> "that the reduction of the import duties in Germany and Austria to 2s. per cwt. (the suggestion put forward by our delegates) will still leave room for the refiners of those countries to form a cartel of considerable importance, quite sufficient to grant very extensive bounties on the export of refined sugars."

There is another mode of giving bounties, which is not stopped by the Convention, and that is with regard to freights by sea and land. There is a note on the Brussels Convention to this effect—

> "Many not inconsiderable advantages will be retained by European sugar-producing countries, such, for instance, as the preferential railway and steamer rates granted in Germany and Austria-Hungary, and the *taxe de distance* granted in France."

I understand that at this very moment the Government of Austria pay to the sugar producer or the sugar merchant the dues which may be levied in the Suez Canal. What is the difference between that and bounties? There is no difference whatever. I say, therefore, there is practically no free trade secured in other countries by this Convention.

The noble Marquess boasted that they would destroy the cartels and trade combinations. I do not think that will be the case. We have already seen, since the Convention has been under discussion in this country, that very serious cartels have been formed abroad, which will have exactly the same effect as bounties. If there is no free trade secured with regard to foreigners, what is our object? It has been very distinctly stated by the noble Marquess, both in the House this evening and in his instructions to our representative at the Brussels Conference, contained in a despatch dated 12th Decemb r, 1901. Here is the object, as expressed in those instructions—

> "Considering that it is of urgent importance in the interest of the British West India Colonies and the sugar refining trade of the United Kingdom that effective steps should be taken for the abolition of bounties, His Majesty's Government would be prepared,"

and so on.

Again, on 17th January, 1902, in sending further instructions to the British delegates, Lord Lansdowne wrote—

> "The main reason of His Majesty's Government for desiring to terminate a system which has tended for the time to cheapen the price of sugar to consumers in the United Kingdom has been their conviction of its injurious effect on their sugar-producing colonies in the West Indies."

As to the sugar-refining trade, are the refiners in this country in such a bad position as all that? I have no doubt there are some who have not the most modern appliances who are unsuccessful. There is the firm of Tait and Sons, whose business in 1900 is quoted at £91,000, and now it is quoted at £215,000; but if we take the industry as a whole, we find that their trade has increased from 591,000 tons in 1870 to 640,000 tons at the present moment. That does not look as if the trade was dying, and I do not believe that it requires this assistance.

Then we come to the West Indies, which has been distinctly stated to be the great object of the Bill. The annual production of sugar in the West Indies amounts to about 240,000 tons, and of that amount only 46,000 tons are consumed in this country. The rest goes to the United States; and I want to know how that trade will be affected when, as the result of this Convention, the United States withdraw their preferential duty? Then the West Indies will have to compete on equal terms with all the sugar-producing countries in the world; and I am not sure that, with their present energies or appliances, they will be able to do so successfully. We hear that they cannot produce sugar in the West Indies, that can be sold at a profit, under £8 a ton. But in Cuba, ever since the United States have occupied it, and as a result of the vigour and activity that have been thrown into the industry, they can produce sugar at £5 a ton. Therefore you will have a large amount of Cuban sugar to compete with that trade. I greatly fear that the trade in the West Indies will not be improved by this Act, but will be very seriously hindered.

The noble Marquess said there would not be a rise in the price of sugar, but that this Convention would steady the price. If there is no rise in the price, how are the objects of the Convention to be arrived at? The object of the Convention is to enable the West Indies to carry on their trade in sugar at a profit. If they cannot do that now, if the price of sugar is not to be increased and there is to be much larger competition, I am afraid the result will be unfortunate for the West Indies. The real fact is that the trade in sugar has been entirely revolutionised within the last twenty years owing to the production of beetroot sugar. Beetroot sugar is now, I believe, about two-thirds of all the sugar in the markets of the world. In the United

States of America the production of beetroot sugar has been going on at a tremendous rate, and if at present there is a very small export of sugar from the United States the probabilities are, if the beetroot sugar industry increases as it has of late years, that the United States will become a very considerable exporter of sugar. The noble Marquess told us that only a small quantity of sugar would be prevented from coming into this country if the Convention was carried out. I cannot help thinking that is a mistake. In Russia alone there is an enormous production of sugar, and before very long the export of sugar from the United States will be largely increased.

There is one point which I cannot help thinking was over-looked at the time the Convention was framed, by his Majesty's Government and by those who took part in it. I refer to the way in which various industries which depend on sugar are dealt with in the Convention. Article I. affects the contracting Powers, and deals not only with sugar but also with sugar products, such as preserves, chocolate, biscuits, condensed milk, and other products. Clause 4 deals with the manner in which the Convention is to operate in regard to countries which have not entered into the contract. In that clause only the production of sugar is referred to, and nothing is said about these various sugar industries. What is the result of that ? I for one am against all interference with the natural course of trade ; but if we are to interfere with it we must combine this interference with justice to all people concerned. Take some country in the centre of Europe, like Switzerland, which competes a great deal with us in the manufacture of condensed milk and jam. That country would be able to get the full benefit of the bounty-fed sugar, which they would obtain at a very cheap price, and then come into direct competition with our confectioners and jam makers, who would have to compete at the greatest possible disadvantage. I do not consider that it is an equitable mode of dealing with this question, and it shows what extreme difficulties arise if interference is adopted with the natural course of trade.

The noble Marquess hardly referred to one very important question connected with this Convention. We have placed ourselves in the power of a Commission on which we are barely represented. When that Commission reports that a certain country has bounties, we are bound either to prohibit altogether the importation of sugar from that country or to impose duties equivalent to the benefits which the producers get from the bounties. That is a perfectly new action. This great, free country, proud of its representative Government, proud that the House of Commons is the only body which can raise taxes, deal with duties, or control the whole fiscal affairs of the Empire, is put under the orders as it were, of a foreign Commission on which we have only one representative. I think a more monstrous change than that has never been proposed. We have heard the noble Marquess before now on the subject of retaliation. In the discussion on Lord Goschen's Motion, the noble Marquess said he wanted to have in his hands a large revolver. He has had his large revolver with regard to this Convention, and has presented it. On 25th January, he wrote —

> "Should no agreement be come to by the Powers in the course of a few days, His Majesty's Government will be reluctantly forced to withdraw their delegates and submit to Parliament proposals for the taxation of sugar in 1902-3, framed on the assumption that the object of the Conference has not been achieved."

That is the noble Marquess's first shot with his large revolver. He has brought down bounties to a certain extent—I think he has wounded them rather than destroyed them ; but at the same time he has inflicted a very serious wound on his own followers and on this country. The noble Marquess may say that he wishes to use this large revolver in future ; but if this Convention is carried he will have thrown away most part of his ammunition. Take any country you like. Take Germany, which may be one of the countries which has raised up this great fiscal wall against us. The noble Marquess throws away the power of imposing differential duties on German sugar, the value of which, refined and unrefined, comes to nearly £10,000,000. No doubt there are other exports to this country, but they do not amount to anything like that sum. I have always said that I am entirely opposed to retaliation. I am still opposed to retaliation. But if the noble Marquess still adheres to the views which he put forward on the opening night of the fiscal debate in this House, he has to a great extent damaged his own case. I shall not be sorry for it. I doubt whether any Bill has ever been presented to the Parliament of the United Kingdom which would bring about such evil and pernicious results. I use strong words because I feel strongly on the subject. While this Bill inflicts a terrible loss on the people by raising the price of sugar, now one of the valuable parts of the food used by the population, it will probably entirely fail in its special object in protecting the West Indies; and, finally, it initiates a disastrous proposal wholly foreign to the constitution of the country and contrary to all our principles of representative Government—namely, to give a foreign Commission, on which we are barely represented, power to direct our law on one very large and important item of our fiscal policy. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time this day three months.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and add at the end of the Motion the words 'this day three months.'—(*Earl Spencer.*)

*LORD WELBY: My Lords, I feel that there are very great objections to be advanced against this Convention, and it is on that ground that I propose to vote with the noble Earl who has just sat down. I doubt very much whether the Convention will, in the first place, accomplish its object. Next, it appears to me it is open to objection, inasmuch as it may involve us in some very difficult questions with foreign Powers. It may also involve us in very difficult questions with our colonies, and what I attach very great importance to is that it will involve us in very great difficulties of administration. Lastly, I think it is objectionable on account of the injury which it does to the poorer classes in this country. To explain my meaning I will examine the Convention under one or two different heads. I will endeavour to ascertain, first of all, what the framers of the Convention are aiming at; secondly, what the intention of His Majesty's Government is in entering into the Convention; and, lastly, I will consider some of the results which the Convention will have in our own country.

First of all, let me say how entirely I associate myself with the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition in what he said with regard to bounties in general. No free trader has any sympathy with bounties; on the contrary, every free trader would be glad if they were removed from the tariffs of all countries. Free traders believe that if moderate prices rule, consumers have much larger powers of purchasing, and that in general the world would profit by larger trade. But it is quite a different matter when this country is asked to interfere. These bounties are not of our making. We have nothing to do with them. They are the making of foreign Powers. It is not our business to guide Germany and France by the hand into the right way. If they choose to be so silly as to give us a large tribute, I do not see why we should not benefit by it. We are at liberty to stand aside and let them, so to speak, stew in their own juice, making the best we can of the tribute they offer us; and when the time arrives that they return to a sane state of mind, we should have had very considerable benefit, so far as our population were concerned, from the tribute, and we could cheerfully acquiesce in the sounder state of feeling which the foreign Powers would have arrived at.

So far as I can understand, the object of the framers of the Convention was to equalise the conditions of competition between beet and cane sugar and to promote the consumption of sugar. In the first place, the Convention does not equalise the conditions between beet and cane. On the contrary, it begins by establishing a protective duty of 30 per cent. From the complaints that are made of the effect of protective duties, when imposed by foreign Powers, I take it noble Lords opposite do not consider that a protection of 30 per cent. is at all equivalent to free trade, and, therefore, I say that so far as that is concerned the Convention will not attain its object. It does not abolish protection, but, further than that, it does not promote consumption, because it is perfectly evident that if you restrict trade, if you raise prices, the only effect of that must be to check consumption. Therefore, I say that on neither of those two points will the result of the Convention justify the objects which the framers state that they had in view.

I pass now to the object of His Majesty's Government, as stated by the Prime Minister. Mr. Balfour stated that were it not that under the present circumstances it was dangerous and difficult for capital to flow into the West Indies, he for one did not see why our sugar consumers should not benefit by the bounty-fed sugar which the foreigner was so foolish as to give us. That, perhaps, was rather a more limited view of the objects for which His Majesty's Government entered into the Convention than that held by his colleagues, because the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary alluded to the injury being done to sugar refiners. With regard to the Prime Minister's statement, is the Convention likely to encourage the flow of capital into the West Indies? Your Lordships are aware that for a long time past this grievance on the part of the West Indies has continued. It is not long ago that sugar was very far above the price to which the President of the Board of Trade hopes to raise it under the Convention. Sugar was ruling not very long ago at prices from 15s. and 20s. to 25s. per cwt. The President of the Board of Trade, in his modest estimate, hopes that it may rise as high as 10s. under the Convention, and he hopes, also, that if the price rises to 10s. capital will flow from the United Kingdom into the West Indies, and that the West Indian sugar trade will at once be set upon its legs again. But if 10s. per cwt. is going to have this happy effect at the present moment, why did it not have that happy effect ten or fifteen years ago, when the price of sugar was 10s., 20s., and even 25s. per cwt.? If capital did not flow into the West Indies when sugar was at that price, it is hardly likely to flow in when it is as low as 10s. Therefore I venture to think that the object His Majesty's Government aims at will not be achieved.

But is there no better reason why capital does not flow into the West Indies? We learn from the Commission that the West Indian Islands are behindhand in their management of the sugar business, and that practically what it comes to is that they are the old four-horse coach running against the railway in the shape of the intelligent, energetic and skilled producers of other countries. Surely, if that is the case no slight amount of increase in the price of sugar will bring capital from this country into the West Indies. Therefore, from whichever point we look at it, the Convention will fail to achieve the object aimed at. But His Majesty's Government have another object in view. They have the object in view of saving the refining industry. It is curious that His Majesty's Government should have such very great solicitude for the sugar refining industry, which only employed at the best time between 3,000 and 4,000 persons, and which now employs between 2,000 and 3,000, and have no solicitude whatever for those other great sugar industries which employ as many as 100,000 and more. Surely before the course of trade is interfered with in order to benefit a trade that employs some 2,000 or 3,000 persons, some little attention might be paid to those great trades which have risen up under this bounty system, and which will be in danger by the new system.

As the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, the real fact is the refining industry of the country is not a very suffering industry. It has been stated, in tones of dismay, in another place that in 1864 there were sixty refineries, and that they have now shrunk to fifteen; but the fifteen are producing much more refined sugar than the sixty did forty years ago. The noble Earl Lord Spencer mentioned the names of two firms, and those two firms alone produce at the present time as much sugar as the sixty firms did in 1864. The fact is, the small, ill-equipped refineries, the disappearance of which the members of His Majesty's Government lament, have made way for better and larger and more efficiently equipped establishments, which are able to hold their own before the world. I do not think there is any real ground shown for the solicitude entertained with regard to the refining industry.

I quite admit that the production of refined sugar in England at the present moment is not so high as it was twenty years ago. I also readily admit that the import of refined sugar from abroad has risen immensely—from 200,000 tons to nearly 900,000 tons—in recent years, but what has been the result of that? It has enabled the very large industries of the jam trade to flourish during the last twenty years to an extent that will almost beat any other trade in the United Kingdom. It is this large increase of bounty-fed sugar, with cheap rates, which has enabled this immense number of people to be employed, and surely we may have some anxiety as to what will be the effect on those industries under the new order of things.

I now come to a point on which I have great anxiety. Anyone who has had experience of the great fiscal Department of the State knows the extreme difficulties attending restrictive legislation. I have had occasion more than once to mention this in your Lordships' House, but as it is germane to the subject I might mention it again. It is almost impossible for the very skilled servants of the Government in the Customs Department to frame their laws so as to ensure, under restrictive legislation, impartiality and fairness for all the different trades concerned. It is also extremely difficult for them to draw restrictive legislation in such terms as will not raise difficult questions between us and foreign Powers. Even in regard to this very question it was evident in the House of Commons the other night that the Government had not realised that under the Bill as it stands, while this country would be prevented from receiving bounty-fed sugar there was no means of preventing the import to us of preserves and other sugar products which might be made from bounty-fed raw sugar; and at last the Minister in charge of the Bill had to say that if any such difficulty arose no doubt it would be the subject of subsequent legislation. But does not that bring out the extreme difficulties that attend this meddling legislation? That, however, is only an instance of the difficulties that attend this restrictive legislation — difficulties which it is almost impossible to foresee, and which when they arise are most difficult to meet. Our Statute-book has teemed with numberless instances of these difficulties, and I do feel very great regret that His Majesty's Government should not have profited by the experience of the past, and should be entering again with a light heart on this system of meddling legislation. Another point which arises in connection with this Bill is this. We should have to go back to that old and most obnoxious system of dealing with certificates of origin. That in itself is a matter most vexatious to trade, and no cours which His Majestys' Government take can do away with the vexations arising from that. The best policy is not to meddle in this matter but, as far as possible, to leave trade to its own free and unimpeded course.

With regard to the consequences to ourselves, I cannot help thinking with the nobe Earl who spoke last, that it is a very serious matter that we should put ourselves into the position of dependence upon a foreign Convention in matters of such importance as our fiscal arrangements. And in connection with that point I cannot forget that there has been a very awkward opinion of the law officers on the subject of the most-favoured-nation clause. If in the administration of the new restrictive policy the conditions of the most-favoured-nation clause should really come into discussion with powerful foreign nations, noble Lords on the Front Bench opposite would regret very much finding themselves in that position. At all events, most of us would not envy the position of a Foreign Secretary who had to deal with that question, relating as it does to what, under present circumstances, is one of the charters of our trade. Again, as my noble friend has stated, the cartel is not abolished. There is no reason why there should not be even an international cartel established. It has been said that there is no conflicting interest between us and the other ten members who will form the permanent Commission, but ten of them represent highly protective Powers while we are a free trade Power. Surely then they have a conflicting interest with ourselves. Up to the present time they have been the sellers and we the buyers, and I have never heard that the interests of both sellers and buyers were one.

Lastly, my Lords, there is a point which ought not to be lost sight of. There can be no doubt that of late years the import of sugar has very greatly increased, and it has greatly increased under this system. At all events let us acknowledge how far that has been a benefit to us. From 1860 to 1869 the sugar retained at home for home consumption was about 12,000,000 cwts. In the next years, between 1870 and 1885, that rose to about 20,000,000 cwts.; and since that time has risen to considerably over 30,000,000 cwts., and I see by the last Returns, which go up to 30th June last, that in the current years the imports retained at home for home consumption amounted to an astounding figure, which works out at the rate of 40,000,000 cwts. a year. What has become of this difference between the 40,000,000 cwts. to-day and the 20,000,000 cwts. of twenty years ago? It must be the case, as it was retained for home consumption, that it has either gone to improve the food of the people or to be the raw material of manufacture. Many noble Lords will recollect how deeply interested the House was the other day when Lord Meath brought forward the question of the national standard of public health. Surely the question we are now discussing has a very considerable bearing upon the question of the physique of the nation. If the large masses of our poorest population, on whom a great part of our reputation for national physique depends get such an important article of food as sugar at low rates, surely that is a very important item in improving the physical condition of the nation. If that is the case, I do not think that in this anxiety to benefit what I think, and what many noble Lords think, is the somewhat decaying industry of the West Indies, the interests of the large mass of the consuming population should be entirely neglected and overlooked as they have been by His Majesty's Government.

LORD FARRER: My Lords, I should certainly not have ventured to make any observations on this question were it not for the fact that in another place my father's name was quoted as having written largely upon this subject, and many deductions were drawn from those pamphlets and writings which I hope to show were not founded on fact. But before I answer that particular point I hope your Lordships will allow me for a very few minutes to express my own opinion as to the danger of this Convention. What is the idea at the bottom of it? I do not think that one can possibly doubt what the real intention of it is when one notes what was stated by the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on 17th January, 1902. The noble Marquess then said—

> "The main reason for His Majesty's Government desiring to terminate a system which for the time has tended to cheapen the price of sugar to consumers in the United Kingdom has been their conviction of its injurious effect upon their sugar-producing colonies in the West Indies."

Again, on 26th June, the Prime Minister stated—

> "If it were not in effect for the case of the West Indies there is no conceivable reason why we should not allow the foreigner to tax himself for the sake of our consumer."

And again, the Colonial Secretary stated in the House of Commons—

> "I say that the West Indian industry, which asks only for free trade and fair trade, is, after all, more deserving of consideration than the jam industry."

This is particularly interesting to those of us who hold the old-fashioned opinion that the consumer is of much more importance than the producer, as it shows that the modern idea of politicians is to consider the producer in the first instance. I think the idea of protecting the consumer by pouring small shot into him is a very curious one. As has been well said, in order that the West Indian producer may benefit effectually, the English consumer must suffer substantially. Indeed, the fact that the price of sugar will be raised to the consumer in this country is admitted by advocates of the measure in the other House. Sir Walter Thorburn said—

> "I do not suppose that more than a farthing per pound will be added to the price of sugar."

I do not see how these views are in consonance with those expressed in the early fiscal debates in this House by the noble Duke the Leader of the House and by Viscount Goschen. After all, what are the figures of the West Indies? for, when you come to it, this is a matter of figures. So far as I can make out, the total production of the West Indies is 240,000 tons, of which they send to us not 50,000 tons, whereas the total consumption in the United Kingdom is 2,000,000 tons. It is inconceivable, I think, that the West Indies can possibly supply this country with all the sugar we require; and in this connection I should like to mention the entire failure of another attempt to protect West Indian interests. I refer to what is known in Liverpool as the banana boat subsidies. I am told that the £40,000 a year that has been given to them has been an absolute and complete failure, and if you go to Liverpool you will find that the other shipowners laugh at it. Since the Convention has been signed the price of sugar has gone up £2 a ton. Whether that is *post hoc* or *propter hoc* it is difficult to say, but I think there is no doubt that the Convention is the cause of it; and I do not see how we, as a nation of shopkeepers as we have been called, can possibly think that this Convention is to our advantage.

Switzerland, which is not a party to the Convention, has already enormous manufactories of chocolate and other similar industries. It seems to me extremely probable that, if we tax the makers of confectionery, jam, and so on in this country, while Switzerland can receive its products free, that enormous trade will be largely transferred to Switzerland. The complications which will arise in carrying out this Convention can easily be seen if your Lordships will take the trouble to read the Paper which has been circulated. I have read a good deal about this subject, and I confess that the difficulties that arise, and the elaborate arrangements which have to be made to carry out the Convention, even the early stages of it, have baffled me, and I am unable to understand it. After what my noble friend Lord Welby has said, I need not refer further to the great difficulties which will arise in the methods of inspecting the various trades of this country. Anyone who will take the trouble to look back to the days of protection will recognise that one of the most serious difficulties the Government had then to contend with, was the great cost of inspection, and, what is far worse, the lobbying in Parliament on behalf of the various interests affected, a process that, I am sorry to say, has already begun. I should like to say one word as to the question of bounties. The Colonial Secretary stated in the other House—

> "What is the ultimate object of a bounty? It is to secure a monopoly. Was the bounty in process of securing a monopoly? Yes, it was."

The figures he gave in respect of that assertion were to the effect that the sugar of Austria and one or two other countries granting bounties had increased enormously; but, supposing for a moment bounties do create a monopoly *pro tem.* in a free trade country, it is inconceivable that that monopoly will last. I believe I am right in saying that in no great trade in this country has any large monopoly ever been able to be instituted since the adoption of our free trade system. I think it is probable that the Convention, if it is passed, will ultimately, after the five years, be found so unsatisfactory that it will be abolished; but that, of course, is a question of the future. I should like before sitting down to correct the statements made in the House of Commons from my father's pamphlets with respect to the question of bounties. Mr. Duke said that my father stated six years ago that—

> "We must admit to the fullest degree that sugar bounties are an abomination."

The Colonial Secretary, in the same debate said—

> "Gentlemen have quoted passages that serve their purpose, and very rightly omitted passages that do not serve their purpose."

That was quite true, for what did my father say? As a matter of fact, what he said was that—

> "Sugar bounties are an abomination to the countries granting them."

which is a very different thing.

*THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: My Lords, perhaps your Lordships will permit me for a very few moments briefly to discuss this measure, which is connected with that Office which I fear somewhat inadequately, I have the honour to represent in your Lordships' House. It would not be right or proper for me, in the short time at my disposal, to attempt to reply to all those questions which were raised with regard to the constitutional and diplomatic aspect of this case by the noble Earl who moved the rejection of the Bill. No doubt the noble Marquess will reply later on to that. But there is one point which the noble Earl raised with which I think I may deal. As far as I understood him, he based one of his chief arguments for the rejection of this measure on the fact that the consumer in Great Britain had benefited to a very great extent from the bounties. I know that distinguished Members of the Party opposite have estimated that benefit at £5,000,000 or £6,000,000 or £8,000,000 a year, but it has been left to the noble Earl himself to raise that figure to £15,000,000.

What are the facts? Great Britain at the present time takes from Europe about 1,500,000 tons of sugar. Of that amount 1,200,000 tons is bounty-fed. The natural price of sugar at the present time is about £9 10s. per ton, and, for the sake of argument, I will assume, in order to give the producer a good profit, that he sells his sugar at £10 a ton. The artificial price of sugar quoted for the month of August is £8 a ton; that is to say, the consumer in Great Britain has been benefiting to the extent of £2 a ton during the last few months. It is not difficult to multiply the 1,200,000 tons by £2 a ton, and we find that the consumer in Great Britain has been benefited to the extent, not of £15,000,000, or £7,000,000, or even £5,000,000 but to no more than £2,500,000. That is, as far as I can understand, about the benefit that the British consumer and those who are mixed up in the biscuit and jam industries have been receiving. If we balance against that the loss to the sugar refineries in this country, we shall find that the British consumer has benefited very little from bounties. And even if we had some slight advantage, how long was that advantage likely to last? Was it likely to be a permanent advantage or one that might be removed? Undoubtedly it would not have lasted. Bounty-fed countries are enabled to sell sugar below cost price, and at the same time gain a benefit to themselves, with the result that those countries which do not give any bounty have to pay the difference between the artificial price and the natural price out of their own pocket. The consequence is that those countries which do not give bounties gradually cease to produce, so that there is less sugar produced; the production is confined to the countries where bounties are given, and the price necessarily goes up.

In the bounty-fed area the tendency has been for one bounty-fed country to destroy another. Several years ago the sugar bought by us from Europe came in almost equal proportions from the bounty-fed countries, but the figures of the last few years show conclusively that a monopoly was gradually being acquired by Austria and Germany. What do these tendencies all point to? They all point to the fact that eventually the result in bounty-fed countries would be that a monopoly would be formed, and that in consequence an artificial increase of price would take place. Noble Lords opposite will probably say that if Germany and Austria together were able to create a monopoly and raise the price of sugar to a prohibitive figure, that would enable other countries to come in, and consequently the price would fall; but it would take certainly some time for a country like France, after having her sugar industries partially destroyed, to be able again to come in and compete against the more powerful combinations on the part of Austria and Germany, and during that long time the cousumers in this country would be paying the higher price and the manufacturers dependent on the cheapness of sugar would be placed in a serious position. The noble Earl said he was afraid that monopolies might still go on.

EARL SPENCER: Cartels.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: That cartels might still go on, and that nothing was very definitely settled about the surtax; but my information is that under this Convention the surtax has been limited. It is the difference between the import duty and the Excise—2s. 6d. per cwt.—and I am assured that it would be impossible at that figure for any very powerful combination to be effected. If His Majesty's Government had declined to join in this Convention; if, as a result, the bounties on sugar had not been abolished, and a few years afterwards a monopoly had, in consequence, been created in Europe, I cannot help thinking that noble Lords opposite would, with reason, have criticised His Majesty's Government for not having anticipated such a possible event and taken an opportunity when it was offered to them of removing that danger. We believe that the time has come when the advantages—if indeed they were advantages—which we derived from the Bounties have been exhausted, and that the monopoly for which they were created is in view. I was very pleased to hear one statement made by the noble Earl in the course of his speech. He seemed very concerned as to the future prosperity of the West Indies, and that gave me source of very great satisfaction, because I felt that at least there was one point in this measure up on which we were all agreed. I understood the noble Earl to say that the West Indies, in consequence of the removal of the countervailing duties in America, would lose the benefit that they had been gaining. I do not deny that, on the one hand, they will lose those advantages, but, on the other, they will gain advantages from the fact that bounties no longer exist in Europe, and that consequently they can compete on favourable and even terms with their competitors in the English market.

The noble Earl expressed his great concern for the future of the West Indies. I certainly agree with him. He pointed out that they had a considerable trade with the United States, but, my Lords, the tendency of America is to grow all her sugar in Cuba, in Porto Rico and Hawaii. I think it is probable that these sugar industries will be highly protected in the future, and that in consequence the sugar trade which the West Indies has with America to-day will be removed from her in the future. Where else can the West Indies then turn but to the mother country for their markets, and if these bounties had not been removed they would have even this last market cut away from them. I understand that the trouble in the West Indies has not been due to the low price at which they have had to sell their sugar, but more to the fluctuations of price and the consequent insecurity of capital. Over and over again they have endeavoured to induce capitalists to invest money in the West Indies without success, and the consequence has been that their industry has been seriously crippled. It is believed by many men who have studied this question for a long time that, if freedom of competition is secured to the West Indies in other markets, if security from artificial bounties is created, capital will be invested in our West Indian Colonies, and that in consequence modern machinery will be employed and modern methods of production adopted, with the result that the West Indian Islands, which by nature are peculiarly suited in many circumstances for the production of sugar, will be able in the future to compete upon favourable and equal terms with other competitors in the British market. I believe that the removal of these sugar bounties, which will be the result of this Convention, will, in the first place, give us unrestricted trade in our sugar; that the fear of monopoly and the consequent dislocation of those trades dependent upon the cheapness of sugar will vanish; that, above all, we shall be able to restore a once flourishing and prosperous industry in our West Indian colonies, and extricate them from that undesirable and unfortunate position in which they have been placed through circumstances over which they have no control.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I am very glad that it has fallen to me to reply to the speech that my noble relative has just delivered. I, and all of your Lordships, I am sure, congratulate him on his first appearance in this House as a Minister. He comes of a stock which has produced many able men in both Houses of Parliament, and we all recognise the high promise which the speech he has just delivered shows. I am sure we congratulate him on the clearness with which he has presented his facts, and I myself acknowledge the difficulty there may be in endeavouring to answer them. My noble relative began by attacking Lord Spencer, another of his noble relatives, and he said that my noble friend had asserted that this Bill was going to result in a charge being put on the people of this country of £15,000,000.

*THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: What I said was that it had been stated that the removal of these bounties would diminish the benefit to the consumer in this country to the extent of between £7,000,000 or £8,000,000 a year, and that the noble Earl had estimated the figure at between £7,000,000 and £15,000,000.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: That is exactly what I understood the noble Duke to say. It has never been said that the people of this country have benefited in the past to this amount. It is absolutely clear that the whole amount of the bounty has not gone into the pockets of the consumer in this country. That I do not think is contended, but what we do contend is this, that if the removal of the bounty causes a rise in the price of sugar of a half penny per pound, then the additional cost to the consumer in this country will be something like £7,500,000, and that if the effect of the abolition of the bounties be to add a penny, then the consumer in this country will suffer to the extent of £15,000,000. Those are the statements we have made, and I do not think they are exactly the same as the interpretation put upon them by the noble Duke.

The noble Duke admitted that a certain benefit had arisen to the consumer in this country owing to the bounties. I think we are all agreed as to that, but the noble Duke said that that was more than counterbalanced by the loss arising through the refineries being diminished. Even if the loss to the refiners had been very considerable, I would point out that that loss has fallen upon very few of His Majesty's subjects, whereas the benefit of the low price of sugar has been felt throughout the length and breadth of the country; but I do not think there is any case for saying that there has been this great loss to refineries. It is true that the number of refineries has been largely reduced, but at this moment the refineries which do exist in this country are refining a larger amount of sugar than was refined forty years ago, when a larger number of refineries existed, and, at any rate, taking the bigger refineries, they are doing very well, and are making very large profits. Therefore, I cannot admit that there is a case made out of any real loss arising to the refineries.

Then my noble friend broke out into prophecy. He said that in the future these advantages arising from bounty-fed sugar would not be maintained, and that we should very soon find that we should lose by it; in fact, that eventually the bounties would really restrict production. All I can say is that I prefer the testimony of the facts of the past. What are the facts of the past? They are rather remarkable. In the year 1840 the total sugar crop of the world was only 1,150,000 tons; in 1870 it had risen to 2,416,000 tons; in 1890, to 5,702,000 tons; and in 1900 it had risen to 8,800,000 tons, so that I think I may fairly claim that the experience of the past has shown that the effect of bounties has been largely to increase the production of sugar and not to reduce it. The noble Marquess denounced bounties. He said they were the worst form of protection. We on this side of the House agree with the noble Marquess in his denunciation of the system of bounties. We could join hands with him in the desire to see them abolished; but the fault we find is not with the fact that the bounties are going, but with the method in which they are going. The intention is excellent, but the method of giving effect to that intention leaves much to be desired. I will quote the opinion of a late Member of your Lordships' House, who was a champion of sugar bounties. He took part in convention after convention, and was a great champion of sugar bounties. I allude to the late Lord Pirbright.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (The Earl of ONSLOW): I beg the noble Lord's pardon for interrupting him, but Lord Pirbright and I were members of the Conference of 1887, the whole object of which was to get rid of the bounties. Lord Pirbright was extremely anxious to get rid of them. I do not think he was ever a champion of sugar bounties, but quite the reverse.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I may have expressed myself badly, but what I meant to say was that the late Lord Pirbright was a champion of the abolition of sugar bounties.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: You omitted the word "abolition."

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I am very sorry. Now, what was Lord Pirbright's opinion with regard to this proposal to abolish sugar bounties? I have here the conclusion of a letter that he wrote to *The Times* on this subject. He wrote—

> "I have attempted impartially to examine the Brussels Convention, and, for the reasons I have stated, I am forced to the conclusion that it ought not to be ratified by Great Britain. Our sugar-growing colonies could not be benefited by the acceptance of a Convention which ostensibly for the purpose of protecting the interests of their staple industry really confers special advantages on the bounty-giving Powers, while denying to Great Britain the right to grant any special benefits to her own possessions, while the omission from the Convention of the provision protecting the signatory Powers against reprisals under the most-favoured-nation clause exposes this country to the dangers attendant upon denunciation of commercial treaties, and the consequent grave losses to our export trade."

At any rate, Lord Pirbright, champion as he was of this policy, was absolutely against the method that has been adopted in this Convention by His Majesty's Government. There are two questions I should like to ask the noble Marquess. The first is, whether a country granting special railway rates to sugar would be considered to be giving a bounty. That is an important point, especially in the case of countries in which the railway system is in the hands of the Government. I admit that if Parliament should so desire it, and the Government should so determine in the future, it is possible, under the Bill, to return to countervailing duties, but still the policy which is adopted in the Bill is one of total prohibition. It is said that this proposal involves the securing of free trade. There is one great bar to that in the Bill, and that is the proposal with regard to the surtax. The surtax is nothing in the world but a bounty under another name. That view is accepted even by such a body as the Anti-Bounty League of the West Indies. Here is a quotation from a letter addressed by them in January, 1902, to the Colonial Office. They say—

> "In connection with this, we would refer you to the letter recently forwarded by us to the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of which is enclosed. It will be seen that the cartel has doubled the German bounty, which was £1 5*s.* 0*d.* per ton. It is now £2 10*s.* 0*d*, and can, with the consent of the German Government, be increased to £3 15*s.* 0*d.* without any alterations of the existing Customs and Excise duties. Thus, if the cartel is allowed to continue, the German Government can well give up its official export bounty and still leave the industry with double the bounty it enjoyed last year."

The surtax which is allowed under this Bill is exactly that sum of £2 10*s.* 0*d.* per ton, and it is evident that in the opinion of those engaged in the sugar industry a surtax of £2 10*s.* 0*d.* would leave the industry with double the bounty it enjoyed last year, and, as they say, the German Government might well give up its official export bounty. The noble Marquess made a great point of the fact, that he, at any rate, did not expect any material enhancement of the price of sugar, owing to the Convention. I am not at all sure that I do not rather agree with the noble Marquess in that opinion. If that is the case, if there is no material enhancement of the price, then it is true that no harm is done to the consumer in this country; but, also, no good whatever is done to the producer in the West Indies. The West Indies do not gain and this country does not lose, and we are all very much as we were in spite of all the disturbance to trade and all the fuss and debates in Parliament that this proposal has caused. Is it altogether certain that we are doing a kindness to the West Indies by going out of our way to foster an industry which, after all, despite the great demand for sugar in all parts of the world, has not done very well in the past?

I should like to say a word or two with regard to the position of some of the islands in the West Indies, and I will refer to none that I have not myself visited. The prosperity of the West India Islands varies precisely in proportion to the extent to which they have given up sugar cultivation and taken up other forms of industry. Take Trinidad. The industry of Trinidad was largely sugar growing. It still exports a considerable amount of sugar, and it has the very best factories and the very best machinery, but Trinidad has also other great sources of industry. It grows a great amount of cocoa, and it also undertakes a good deal of trade as between this country and South America. Trinidad, I think it will be admitted, is in consequence a prosperous island. Go to Tobago, an island close by, which is a dependency of Trinidad, and you find that that island is extremely badly off. Then if you go north to Grenada, you find an island which has entirely given up sugar growing. It is very prosperous, and it grows large quantities of cocoa. Then go to St. Vincent. That is an island that has also given up sugar, but has been brought to the verge of bankruptcy through the frightful eruption which took place there, and also by the severe competition it has had to meet in arrowroot. Then go to Barbados, that is an island 94 per cent. of whose exports is sugar, an island that has not got any modern machinery, and produces very little except the common muscovado sugar. There you have an island which barely gets on, and it is certainly not prosperous. Then go on to Antigua. You there have an island exporting 95 per cent. of sugar, and in very much the same position as Barbados. I should like to quote a Report by Governor Sir H. M. Jackson to Mr. Chamberlain, dated 25th February, 1902, in which he says—

> "What the effect of the abolition of bounties may prove to be in large colonies producing high-grade sugars it is not for me to say, since the Leeward Islands are not among them; but it is only too certain that in these islands producing only muscovado, and that by means of indifferent machinery, the immediate effect will be the reverse of beneficial. The American market is now the only one, a precarious one at best, but still the only one, now open to the low-grade sugars of these islands."

And he goes on to say—

> "So far then from the possible abolition of the bounties making the question of central factories less pressing, at least so far as Antigua is concerned, it only makes it of more vital importance. If the bounty system is continued, the industry may linger on for a short time, yet in a gradually diminishing condition, but with its abolition, and without central factories, there will be immediate stoppage in many of the largest estates."

I think that is pretty good proof that the remedies you are proposing are not, at any rate, certain to bring prosperity in their wake. The Governor also points out that America must be, from geographical reasons, the only market for these islands. I go on to Jamaica. Jamaica is, I think, as large in acreage as the whole of the other West Indian Islands. It is a very prosperous island, yet it hardly exports any sugar at all now. Here is a list of its exports: Fruit, 51·6 per cent.; coffee, 7·8; sugar, 7·0; rum, 6·4; dyewoods, 6·2; pimento, 4·0; minor produce, 17·0. There, I think, is proof that the island that relies on other products than sugar is the one that is really more likely to succeed and remain permanently prosperous.

I now come to Demerara. There you have a large territory which has not been developed as it ought to have been, because the sugar planters have refused to allow men to settle in the interior and develop it It is a country where sugar is produced under the best conditions, where they have the best machinery, with, I think, an import duty of £14 per ton placed on sugar coming into the country, and with everything that the sugar planter requires for his trade admitted free of duty; yet that country has only just succeeded in good years in making a profit on its sugar.

The view that I am venturing to put forward is also supported by the Report of the West Indian Commission. That Commission looked into the question from the point of view especially of the sugar interest, and it came to the conclusion that, while the imposition of countervailing duties would inflict injury on the people of this country, it was not certain that such a plan would resuscitate the sugar growing industry. Here are one or two quotations from their Report, which will show what their view was. The Report says—

> "Owing to the nature of the soil and climate such articles of human food as are yielded by cultivation in the tropics can, as a rule, be readily produced in large quantities, and there is consequently no likelihood of any permanent deficiency of the bare necessaries of existence for the labouring classes. It seems to us that no reform affords so good a prospect for the permanent welfare in the future of the West Indies as the settlement of the labouring population on the land as small peasant proprietors. The settlement of the labourers on the land has not as a rule been viewed with favour in the past by persons interested in the sugar estates. What suited them best was a large supply of labourers entirely dependent on being able to find work on the estates and consequently subject to their control and willing to work at low rates of wages."

The Report then remarks on the evils arising from absentee landowners and the influence of sugar capitalists with the Government, and winds up by saying—

> "It is the special duty of your Majesty's Government to see that the general public is not sacrificed to the interests or supposed interests of a small but influential minority which has special means of enforcing its wishes and bringing its claims to notice."

I do not think that you can lightly put aside the recommendations of that Commission, and they are recommendations which I would press on His Majesty's Government. The Convention carried out by this Bill will, in my humble judgment, confer a very doubtful benefit on the West Indies, and I think it will confer still more doubtful benefit on Great Britain. In order to get that, you are proposing to place your fiscal arrangements, so far as sugar is conceened, under the control of foreign Powers. You are going to hand over the decision of all fiscal matters relating to the taxing of sugar in this country, to a Commission, consisting of eleven members, of whom ten are foreigners and the representatives of producing countries, and you alone have a single representative.

Then there is a still more extraordinary provision. In this Bill you propose absolutely to exclude raw sugar from producing countries which have not come under the Convention and which give bounties, but while it is proposed to make that exclusion, you admit the manufactured article made from that bounty-fed sugar. That is the most extraordinary proposal that ever emanated from any British Government. Let us take Italy. You forbid her sugar coming into this country, yet you receive from her readily and without duty, sweets made out of that very sugar. If the Bill is to be successful in what I maintain to be its main object, namely the assistance of the West Indies, you must increase the price of sugar considerably to the consumer here in England, and, if you do that, I maintain that you violate the first principles of free trade. For these reasons I support the Amendment which has been moved by the noble Earl beside me.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: My Lords, sugar is the natural and only product of a large number of the West India Islands, and its production employs a large amount of labour. By destroying the sugar industry in the West India Islands by this system of bounties you kill, by artificial means, an industry which nature intended should be carried on, and which is most beneficial to the people. It is said that the labouring population can be settled on the land by giving them small holdings. The Government have gone as far in that direction as is possible, but it is not very far. The advantages which we believe this Bill will give to the West Indies are not that it will raise the price of sugar, nor that of itself it will result in an increased consumption of cane sugar from those islands—though we believe it is likely to have that effect—but that, when it is known that the price of sugar is not liable to violent fluctuation owing to bounties, and that there will be security for capital, people will be willing to invest capital in those islands, and a greater quantity of machinery will be made and sent from this country to the West Indies. The noble Earl who moved the rejection of this Bill said that we were handing over to a foreign Commission the control of our fiscal system so far as sugar is concerned. We are doing nothing of the kind. This Bill gives effect to a convention which his Majesty's Government have entered into. All the Bill does is to lay down certain propositions to which Parliament have assented, and asks the permanent Commission to decide whether those conditions are being carried out by the several countries concerned. Lord Tweedmouth asked whether a preferential railway rate would be a bounty. That is one of the things which the permanent Commission will be called upon to examine and decide.

EARL SPENCER: I quite admit that. My contention was that if certain countries produced sugar by bounty we should be bound to meet it by countervailing duties.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: The Commission are a jury, not judges, and will have to decide on a question of fact. The Convention gives power to each of the contracting parties to prohibit the importation of bounty-fed sugar, but it will be in the competence of Parliament, instead of prohibiting the importation of sugar from a bounty-giving country, to impose countervailing duties. If at any time since bounties came into existence this country had possessed the revolver which the noble Marquess has asked for, and had been able to impose countervailing duties, those bounties would not have lasted twenty-four hours. All the parties to the Convention have agreed that the time has come when bounties should be removed, and the Government think that the least this country can do is to undertake to impose a penalty if any of them break the Convention. The Government do not lay great stress upon the advantages which will be derived by the refining industry in this country from prohibition or the imposition of countervailing duties on sugar. In the first place we do not believe it will ever be necessary to prohibit the importation of sugar, except possibly sugar from some countries such as Russia, whose exportation to England is trifling. We believe that, while the price of sugar will probably not rise higher than the average price during the last ten or twelve years, this Bill will prevent Germany and Austria, who were rapidly obtaining a monopoly of our market, from obtaining that monopoly and dictating to us what should be the price of sugar in this country. We believe that the Bill will encourage the investment of capital in the West Indies, and that the result will be enormously to increase the growth of sugar all over the world. We believe that the price of sugar will not be materially increased, because it will be regulated by the law of supply and demand, and that the Bill will restore real free trade.

On Question, "That the word now stand part of the Motion." Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 108; Not-Contents, 16.

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Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

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Argyll, D.
Beaufort, D.
Grafton, D.
Marlborough, D.
Northumberland, D.
Portland, D.
Wellington, D.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)
Camden, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Winchester, M.
Zetland, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain*)
Abingdon, E.
Bandon, E.
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de Montalt, E.
Denbigh, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Drogheda, E.
Grey, E.
Hardwicke, E.
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Morley, E.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.

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Rosse, E.
Selborne, E.
Shrewsbury, E.
Stamford, E.
Stanhope, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
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Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Castlemaine, L.
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clonbrock, L.
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Colchester, L.
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Digby, L.
Dunalley, L.
Dunboyne, L.

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Emly, L.
Farrer, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]
Sandhurst, L.

Saye and Sele, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L.

Bill read 2^a accordingly. Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 3^a and passed.

LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

Bill read 3a (according to Order) with the Amendments.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): I have a large number of Amendments to move to this Bill, but with one or two exceptions they are of an entirely drafting character. Many of them have been necessitated by the great number of changes that were made in the Bill in the Standing Committee. I have very carefully considered the Amendments, and can assure your

Lordships that with a very few exceptions they are, as I have said, of a formal nature. One of the Amendments is in pursuance of a promise I gave to my noble friend, Lord Camperdown, to allow Members representing boroughs on the County Council to vote for the constitution of the Appeal Courts. There is also an Amendment in the second schedule to add the Burgh of Haddington, which has a population of 4,000. We propose to give it the privilege of retaining its own licensing Court the same as the other burghs of similar population.

Further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

IRISH LAND BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order).

THE EARL OF ARRAN said the first Amendment standing in his name had been put down with the object of protesting against what was really an injustice to the owners of many estates. It was laid down in the Bill as it now stood that all estates, the rents of which had been fixed before the year 1896, should be treated under Sub-section (*b*) of Clause 1 of the Bill. That meant that the highest percentage—20 per cent.—must be given on every rent on those estates which were sold under the provisions of the Bill. It was an injustice to include all estates, the rents of which were fixed before 1896, because from 1885, as could be proved by reference to the Cowper Commission in fixing rents, the great fall in agricultural prices was taken into full consideration. In the year 1886, rents were reduced 24·1 per cent; in 1887 they were reduced 31·3 per cent.; and in 1888 28·3 per cent. That showed that ample consideration was taken for the fall in prices. He did not bring the Amendment forward with any hope that the Government would accept it; but as a strong protest against what he believed to be a great injustice under the Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 17 and 18, to leave out the words 'passing of the Act of 1896' and to insert '1st day of January, 1886.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): The noble Earl has admitted that he has moved this Amendment without any expectation that it can be accepted by the Government, and therefore it is hardly necessary that I should detain your Lordships at any length upon it. The noble Earl did not move the Amendment in Committee, and I did not understand that it was going to be moved on Report. The noble Earl must be aware that the Amendment would entirely alter and revolutionise the whole basis upon which the proposals of this Bill have been made. The date 1896 was taken for two reasons. Firstly, it was the fifteenth year after the Act of 1881 had been passed, when a second revision of rents became necessary. It was also the date of an amending Act of Parliament which introduced many important and essential changes into the mode by which a fair rent was arrived at. Many of those Amendments were introduced by the desire of the landlords themselves, including one which, I recollect, led to a great deal of discussion in this House—I refer to the introduction of what was called the Pink Schedule; and 1896 must be accepted as the year at which a serious attempt was made for the first time to lay down the scientific principles upon which a fair rent can be based. The whole of the discussions on this Bill have proceeded in the other House, and, so far, also in this House, on the basis that second-term rents should be held to be those which had been fixed after 1896, and it really would be an unwarrantable waste of time if we were to attempt at this stage in our proceedings to go back on that date.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF BELMORE had an Amendment on Clause 3, which provides that where the owner of an estate has entered into agreements under the Land Purchase Acts, for the sale to persons other than the Land Commission, of the estate, the Commission may purchase from him any demesne or other land in his occupation and adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of, the estate, at the selling value of that land, and in such case may resell the whole or any portion of that land to him.

He moved to leave out the words "and adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of, the estate." In all the speeches he had made, and the votes he had given, he had attempted to keep within the spirit of the Bill and to respect the compact which he understood had been made between His Majesty's Government and the Irish Members in the House of Commons. He did not think his Amendment attacked that compact in any way. He had read that day that a great deal of disappointment had been experienced by their friends in Ireland with regard to the small amount of improvement in the Bill from their point of view which they had been able to effect. He confessed they had not obtained many concessions, but they had secured some alterations with regard to procedure which were valuable. When the Bill was introduced one of the boons offered by Mr. Wyndham to the Irish landlords was that they would be allowed, if they chose, to sell their demesnes to the new Estates Commissioners and buy them back again by means of an advance made to them at 3¼ per cent. for a number of years; but when the Bill appeared they found that this privilege was very largely restricted. There were a great many demesnes which were not attached to the estates of the owners. The result of the clause as it stood would be that many landlords, whose demesnes were not in the neighbourhood of their estates, would be unable to take advantage of its provisions. He now came to the main Treasury objection. The Treasury, as he understood, thought they saved money by this; but since the debate the other night a Return had been furnished which he had moved for last month, showing the total advances made since 1870 and the repayments under the whole of the Land Acts since 1870. That Return was only circulated on Saturday, and he found from it that in the thirty-three years that had elapsed since 1870 the total advances had been £23,000,000 odd of which £2,000,000 had been repaid. In making this Return the authorities had done something for which he had not asked. They had divided the advances into four separate heads. They had taken the advances under Mr. Gladstone's Act of 1870, where the advances were small; the advances under the Act of 1881 which were not much larger. But when they came to what they call the Ashbourne Acts of 1885 he found the increase very considerable, and for the series of years between 1885 and 1891, advances were made at a considerably larger rate than they had been since. Speaking on the Second Reading of the Bill he had stated that it was impossible to get more than £1,000,000 worth of land through the land Court in one year owing to the searches. He found from this report that he was mistaken, because under this Act they had succeeded in getting £1,500,000 worth through, and this might be extended to £2,000,000, but even then it would take fifty years to get this £100,000,000 spent. He hoped the Government would be able to get them out of that difficulty.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 3, line 24, to leave out the words 'and adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of the estate.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

LORD CLONCURRY said all must be well aware of the importance of this Amendment. For some hundreds of years numerous landlords had taken up their residence within what was called the "pale," and although they no doubt did so principally for safety, they did not at the same time relinquish the ownership in their tenanted land in the western and southern counties of Ireland. If these objectionable words were allowed to remain in the clause these landlords would be excluded from the benefit offered by the clause, and so intense would be the feeling of resentment against such an injustice that he knew several landlords who would postpone the sale of their lands until these words were struck out. He submitted that this benefit should be given to the landlords, and that these words should be struck out.

THE EARL OF CREWE said he understood the interpretation put upon the clause, as it stood, by Lord Belmore and other speakers, was that the Land Commission could only purchase the demesne of any landlord provided that that demesne was adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of, an estate which was sold, and consequently a landowner with a demesne in the County of Kildare and an estate in Cork would be excluded from taking advantage of this clause. He would like to know if that was the right interpretation of the clause, because he had heard it stated that the demesne was not governed by the words "land adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of the estate," but that an entirely different meaning was placed upon it. If the noble Lord was right in his contention then it was a considerable hardship to a landlord so situated, and an entirely unnecessary hardship. He could not understand how it could interfere with the working of the Act to allow a landlord having a demesne which he wished to sell, to take advantage of this Clause 3. He thought the Government should accept this Amendment.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I believe the noble Earl behind me and the noble Earl opposite have quite clearly interpreted the effect of this clause. Under the clause when "the owner of an estate has entered into an agreement under the Act for a sale to persons other than the Land Commission, of the estate, the Land Commission may purchase from him any demesne or other land in his occupation adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of the estate." "The," I understand, means that estate. I conceive, therefore, that the interpretation placed upon the clause is quite correct. As I said the other day, the Amendment that has been moved is one which we regard with a great deal of sympathy. The noble Earl opposite said he did not understand on what ground or principle it could be refused, and I am very much disposed to agree with him, but the objection which the Treasury takes is that it may very much increase the amount which they are called upon to advance under this clause, and when they assented to this clause they did it with the object of providing that the demesne attaching to the estate, having been sold, the owner should be assisted to re-claim it. Although we view this Amendment with sympathy there has not been time to ascertain what view the Treasury will take on it when they have it placed before them, but I shall be happy to accept the noble Earl's Amendment on the condition that I cannot guarantee as to what reception it will meet with in the House of Commons.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD DUNBOYNE said the next Amendment related to the same subject matter as the last. The object of this additional clause was to enable vendors who had scattered estates and who desired to purchase their demesne, to be able to do so, which the Bill as it now stood, did not permit. In the Bill, as it now stood, if an owner were to sell estate "A" and subsequently desired to re-purchase his demesne "B," he would not be allowed to aggregate the two sums of purchase money, but could only take one-third of the purchase money of the demesne, and therefore would not be allowed to take into account the money he had received for his other estate. The estates in the West of Ireland were very scattered, and it certainly did seem a great hardship, if, on estates sold to tenants at different times, the landlord should not be in a position to re-purchase his demesne, simply because the estates had been sold at different periods. The object of this Amendment was, that, notwithstanding the fact that the estates were sold at different periods, the money should be aggregated, so that the amount which the landlord would receive should be one-third of the total, not exceeding £20,000. The new clause which he now had the honour to move would, he thought, meet this point fairly and properly. He begged to move,

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 6, after the word 'it' to insert as a new sub-section: '(5) In estimating the amount which may be advanced under this section for the re-purchase by the vendor of any demesne or other land, and any mansion or dwelling-house or other buildings thereon, the Land Commission may take into account the aggregate amount of the purchase money of the holdings and other parcels of land sold by the same vendor or by his predecessors in title under this Act.'"—(*Lord Dunboyne.*)

LORD CLONBROCK said he would like to support what had fallen from his noble friend. He hoped the Government would support the Amendment. He had very little to add to what had been said, the noble Lord having stated the facts fairly and well. Of course they would understand that with the best will in the world it would take a landlord a considerable time to sell his property The matter would drag over a considerable number of years, if his estates were of a composite character, that is a combination of several estates which could not always be sold together. What harm did this do? A man could not get the benefit except under the agreement of sale. It seemed very hard, because his property was not in the ring fence but was so situated that it could not be all sold at one time, that this provision should exclude him. He did not see that any objection could be made to the Amendment.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am afraid that there is not the smallest possibility that the Treasury will be induced to consent to this further extension, when I look at the concessions they have made to the landlords in this respect. Lord Dunboyne said it was a very great hardship that this extension should not be considered. I think it must be remembered that the whole clause, and the Acts embodied in that clause, were a very great concession indeed to landlords, and one that is by no means necessary for the purposes of this Act. It was not imperative that any concession should be given, but this is an attempt the Government have made to satisfy the resolution which was agreed upon by the Conference — that inducement should be offered to the landlords in Ireland, after the sale of their estates to the tenants, to reside there in occupation of their own houses and demesnes; and in order to facilitate that, in order to assist and enable them to do so, the Treasury made a very considerable concession which would enable landlords to pay off a considerable amount of the encumbrances which existed on their demesnes, and substitute for those encumbrances a far more moderate rate of interest. Such a concession as that, it is evident, must be limited if the demands upon the Treasury are to be kept within reasonable bounds; and it must be recognised that the Treasury have some voice as to the limits it is necessary to impose in this concession. In regard to the former Amendment that I have consented to, I have said that the Treasury will possibly agree to it; but I am perfectly certain that this Amendment would be one which they would feel themselves justified in refusing.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

THE EARL OF BELMORE said the next Amendment he had to move related to three different subjects; therefore it would be better to take each subject separately. The first paragraph was one which explained itself, and if he was not mistaken the Amendment left things in the same state as existed under the Land Act of 1881. If that was so he thought there could be no exception taken to it. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 12, after the word 'settlement' to insert as a new sub-section the words '(5.) Where any settled land is so purchased and re-sold to the vendor, or sold to such other person as aforesaid, it shall be free and discharged from all superior or intervening interests and encumbrances whatsoever, and from all terms of years, powers, and other provisions for securing the same, and the same shall be transferred to the purchase money in like manner as immediately before the sale they attached to the said lands.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am advised that this is an Amendment which is absolutely unnecessary, and that the noble Lord has overlooked one circumstance. If the noble Lord will refer to Clause 16, very nearly at the bottom of page 10, he will find that Clause 16 states that, provided a vesting order shall be made, it shall be effectual to vest in the Commission the fee-simple of the land purchased subject to certain rights that "save and as aforesaid and subject to the provisions of this Act with respect to minerals discharged from the claims of all persons who are interested in the land, whether in respect of superior or intervening interests or encumbrances or otherwise," I cannot go into the legal arguments, but I am advised that that clause makes the proposal of the noble Earl absolutely unnecessary.

THE EARL OF BELMORE: If that is the case I agree with the noble Duke that it is no use pressing the Amendment, and I withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I may say that the Sub-section 6 the noble Lord now proposes to add can do no harm, and if he likes to move it we should accept it.

THE EARL OF BELMORE said he was advised that it was necessary, but as the Government were willing to accept he would not waste time by arguing the case.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 12, after the word 'settlement,' to insert as a new sub-section the words '(6.) The said lands when re-sold, or sold as aforesaid, shall not be subject to the provisions of the Local Registration of Title Act, 1891, relating to the tenure upon which such land shall be held."—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he did not wish to object to this clause, but there was some modification in the drafting which might be necessary, and if it could not be dealt with now might it be put in at the Third Reading.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY) said it was too late to put it in now.

LORD CLONBROCK said the Amendment standing in his name applied to the question of arrears, but only to a limited extent, viz., in the case of a sale in the Land Judge's Court. There were three ways in which land might be sold—first, in the Land Judge's Court, secondly, to the Estates Commissioners; thirdly, by direct agreement with the tenant. The object of this Amendment was to distinguish the amount paid for the purchase of the land from the amount of arrears. At present, according to the Bill, there was merely a lump sum paid to the landlord, and he was none the wiser. He did not know what the value of the land was or what the amount of arrears was. This Amendment applied to the two other forms of sale which would come before the House on Clause 18, when an Amendment would be moved by Lord Belmore, and also on Clause 24 in an Amendment to be moved. He did not know whether it would be convenient to debate the whole question at present, because this Amendment only applied to a limited number and was not of the importance that the other Amendment, which would be moved by Lord Belmore, was. But the reason was the same. They considered that it would be far better for the landlord to know what he was receiving in respect of each case, what had been done in the case of arrears, and whether they had been collected; that the account that was given should show the amount representing the value of the land and that of the arrears. His Amendment merely provided for that, and he hoped it would be accepted. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 3, after the word 'offer' to insert the words 'and the amount of purchase money therefor.'"

line 5, after the word 'Commission' to insert the words 'and the amount of purchase money therefor.'"

line 6, after the first word 'the' to insert the word 'total.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said his noble friend suggested what might not be in order, but what might be convenient, if he desired to state his view, which was that there should be a clear distinct line drawn between the price proper, as he would call it, and the price advanced in respect to the arrears. It was not deemed convenient to attempt that sub-division, the bargains for the sale would be taken as a whole, and the landlord would know what he was going to get. He would know when he would get one year's arrears and no more, and he would himself know what arrears were outstanding, and therefore would not be misled. He would know he was going to get, for instance, £5,000, a portion of which might and would be due to the amount of arrears, and he would know what that portion was. Anything outside that, the landlord should take into account when making the bargain, when he would be able to say if it did not suit him. The view of the Government all through was that the parties dealing under this Act should consider the question as a whole. Any question of sub-division would only lead to doubt and confusion, and therefore he hoped the Amendment would not be pressed.

LORD CLONBROCK said that as this was the same question as that which would be raised by the Amendment on Clause 18, they attached great importance to it, therefore he must press this particular Amendment.

THE EARL OF BELMORE said he did not attach the importance to this Amendment that his noble friend attached to it. He thought Clause 18, dealing with the question later on in a different way, was far more important, and he suggested that his noble friend should withdraw the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said the Amendment which he now moved was the same as that which he moved on the Committee stage. He did not press it then, because the Government expressed an opinion that it was undesirable. Since then he had consulted with his friends and those for whom he acted, in whose opinion this Amendment if adopted would be of great advantage, because it would promote sales, which was one of the main objects of the Bill. He trusted that the Government having now considered the Amendment would think it desirable to accept it.

Amendment moved—

"'In Page 7., line 25, to leave out the words 'the foregoing provisions,' and insert the words 'Subsection 1 of Section 1.—'(*The Duke of Abercorn.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The Government do not think it would be at all desirable to accept this Amendment, but as the landlords appear to attach a great deal of importance to it I do not say we shall go the length of negativing it. I may state again what seems to us to be the strong reason against the acceptance of this Amendment, and which we are strongly of opinion will probably prove fatal to it in the other House if it is passed. We believe that although the intention may be very different, the impression which may be conveyed would be that this Amendment was introduced for the purpose of enabling the landlord to get a larger price for his holding than that which the holding would secure, or for which the holdingwas good security. Our idea throughout the Bill has been that the Commissioners should satisfy themselves that on the advance to be made in respect of any holdings, the holdings themselves should be sufficient security. We think it better to adopt that plan. No exception can be taken to any advance if it is such an advance as the Commissioners may satisfy themselves is right, but that impression would certainly not be produced by the adoption of this Amendment, if by the powers of retaining a guarantee deposit the Commissioners might be induced to sanction an advance for which the holding itself did not offer adequate security. We cannot therefore say that we think such an Amendment would be desirable. On the contrary, we think it would interfere with the principle on which this Bill rests, but we are ready to allow it to go to the House of Commons, as it is insisted upon, with the almost confident belief that such a departure from the principle of the Bill will not be agreed to.

THE EARL OF BELMORE said he might perhaps say a word upon this Amendment, because he could give an illustration of it which would give a totally different impression to that which the noble Duke had given. He knew of two cases in which the holdings would never have been sold at all except under the discretion which the Land Commissioners had with regard to the guarantee deposit. In one case they said they did not think 20 per cent. guarantee was sufficient, but they said to the landlord if he would allow one-third instead of one-fifth to remain as a guarantee deposit, they would be glad to sanction the advance. In the other case, which occurred in the county of Galway, the Commissioners said they would sanction the advance to the tenants if the landlord would allow the whole of the purchase money to be retained as a guarantee deposit. He allowed it to remain, and if he had not his estate would not have been sold and he and his tenants would have been damnified. He hoped when the matter came to be considered in the House of Commons they would consider those two cases.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said the Amendment standing in his name was to get rid of the difficulty which he had mentioned to his noble friend the other night when he asked him the meaning of exclusive sporting rights. The Amendment was in the words his noble and learned friend then suggested. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 13, to leave out the words 'the exclusive'; in line 14, after the first word 'rights' to insert the words 'exclusive of the tenant.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I don't think this Amendment alters the clause.

LORD MACNAGHTEN: Oh yes; the exclusive rights will not affect the person who has a concurrent right with the landlord himself, exclusive of the tenant, if this Amendment is accepted. As I understand, this Bill does not seek to interfere with those rights.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said he moved the next Amendment in consequence of the noble Marquess having told him that this matter would be considered on Report. This sub-section slightly differed from the one he moved in Committee, because, while it was intended to reserve the right to prosecute, it also included the right to enter This Amendment was to ensure that when the landlords had sold their lands to their tenants, but had retained exclusive sporting rights over those lands, that they should have a right to go into the Court and prosecute in case of trespass under the game laws. He had taken very eminent advice upon this subject, and he had been assured that all previous game laws were based on the relations between landlord and tenant. But this Bill had wiped out all this. If they had no right to prosecute it would be absolutely ridiculous that they should have sporting rights at all, because they would be unable to enforce them. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"After Sub-section 3, in Clause 13, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) Where a sale has taken place under the Land Purchase Acts of holdings or an estate, and the purchase agreement provides that the sporting rights shall belong to the vendor, or where the sporting rights vest in the Land Commission under this Act, there shall be vested in the vendor or the Land Commission, and their respective successors and assigns, the right to prosecute trespassers in pursuit of game or fish thereon, as fully and effectually as if they were the legal occupier of the land, and for all such purposes they shall be deemed to be such occupier.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said he understood there was some doubt attaching to the law. The Government were perfectly content to accept the principle for which the noble Lord contended, but they did not consider that the words they were asked to accept met the case, and they therefore proposed an alternative Amendment, which would read thus—

"Any person authorised by or in pursuance of the last preceding sub-section to enter on land for the purpose of exercising sporting rights shall have the same authority to prosecute for trespass in pursuit of game or fish as if he were the owner of that land."

He thought that would meet the view of the noble Lord.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"After Sub-section 3, in Clause 13, to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(2) Any person authorised by or in pursuance of the last preceding sub-section to enter on land for the purpose of exercising sporting rights shall have the same authority to prosecute for trespass in pursuit of game or fish as if he were the owner of that land.'"—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON said he had re-drafted this Amendment since the Committee stage in consequence of the suggestion of the Lord Chancellor, and he now begged to move it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 9, line 20, after the word 'Commissioners,' to insert as a new Sub-section the words: '(2) Where those Commissioners refuse to consent to the vesting of any such monument in them, the Land Commission may, with the consent of the Council of the County within which the monument is situate, make an order vesting the monument in that Council, and Sub-section 2 of Section 19 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, shall thereupon apply.'"—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF BELMORE said he had been asked to move the next Amendment, which had been put down in the name of Lord Clonbrock. The noble Lord when he moved a similar Amendment on the Committee stage of the Bill did not succeed in obtaining the support of the Government, and therefore it had been thought better that on this occasion somebody else should argue again. Those were the circumstances under which Lord Clonbrock had asked him to move this Amendment, and he now asked the indulgence of the House while he attempted to do so. It was very technical. The Lord Chancellor speaking on Clause 6 had clearly indicated what were the intentions of the Government with regard to what were called arrears, but which were really uncollected rents, under the different modes of purchase. The noble Lord said in effect that they got a proper price for their land, and in addition to that there should be added to the purchase money an amount equal to one year's rent for the arrears of uncollected rent, and that all other uncollected rent they would have to forego. Translated into plain English it meant that the landlord was to get the price of the estate and the tenant was to be absolved from the necessity of paying more than one year's rent. He was not to pay it in cash, the Land Commissioners were going to lend him the amount to be repaid over a long period. What they feared was that, in making the calculation, this matter of arrears would not be kept in mind, and to use a proverbial expression, in getting one year's rents they would be like the dog who was fed on a bit of his own tail. They would only get the value of the land, and the remainder-man, the tenant for life, would get a year's rent not paid over to the landlord. There was a great deal of difference on this subject. The noble Lord, when he asked him to consider the matter, advised him to speak to somebody else who advised the Government, and who gave the same opinion which the noble Lord Chancellor had given just now; but other persons whose advice he had taken on the matter took a different view altogether, and their opinion was that this would result in the landlords losing a sum of money amounting, possibly, in the aggregate, to about £70,000,000, and more than half their rents would be involved under a subsequent section of the Bill. He wanted this matter to be perfectly clear. They asked no favour of the Government; they only asked that they should get their arrears of rents as promised.

It must be remembered that the rent did not go entirely into the pocket of the landlord; that it was subject to charges and jointures, and it was so mixed up with the purchase money that it might be in Court for a considerable period, subject to the payment of interest to the tenant for life, and, in that case, how were the jointures and charges on that particular part to be met? As Lord Clonbrock had said, there were three ways of selling land under this Bill. One was through Judge Ross's Court, of which he had had no experience for many years, and as to which he did not say anything. He had had experience of the other methods, but before he explained what happened with regard to a sale made direct to the tenant, perhaps he might be allowed to read a letter received by him a few days ago from a very experienced solicitor in the North of Ireland, who had conducted sales for him in Tyrone and other places—

> "My Lord,
>
> "I have just gone through the new Irish Land Bill as amended in Committee, and I wish to direct your attention to the unfair position in which landlords are placed who sell direct to their tenants, with respect to arrears of rent. You will observe that by Section 7 of the Act, the Land Commission can buy up the arrears of rent, and by Subsection 5 they are entitled to have the arrears vested in them with the right of collecting the same, and by Section 18 the arrears of rent bought can be recoverable as instalments, but if the landlord sells direct to the tenants, he is limited as to price by the first section, and he is not allowed to recover any arrears at all. No doubt under Section 24, Sub-section 7, a sum not exceeding one year's rent may be paid to him out of the purchase money, but that simply means that he loses a year's rent on the arrears, because he is limited as regards the purchase-money by the first section; in fact, the arrears are paid out of his own pocket. This latter sub-section should be modified by enabling the landlord to recover arrears of rent notwithstanding the agreement to purchase, to an amount not exceeding one year's rent."

Having read the letter, which he thought put the matter very clearly, he would explain what happened when a sale direct to the tenant was made. First of all the landlord agreed with his tenant as to the price the tenant was going to give; the agreement was then prepared on a Land Commission form which had to be filled up and sent for approval, but before it was signed and sent up, there must be stated in it that all unpaid rents, including the broken gale, was paid by the tenant. The interest on the purchase money ran from the date of the agreement, and on that the landlord would lose the interest on the amount he would have received from the tenant by way of rent. If a landlord sold to the Land Commissioners under this Bill what would immediately happen would be that he would go to the Land Commissioners, who would give him a form, and to that a schedule of the rents must be attached, and the landlord would ask them what they would give him for it after they had looked into the matter and seen what the property was worth. He was afraid that the looking into the matter would take a considerable time, and during that time the landlords were afraid the Land Commissioners might say: "You must not collect any more rents, because we are looking at this on the basis that no more rent will be paid." Rent would be then difficult to collect. Honest tenants would come and pay, but "processing" tenants took a long time, and if a landlord wished to evict a tenant he could not issue process against the tenant unless he was owing a year's rent. The landlords were therefore afraid they would get into a hideous mess in about a year from the passing of this Act, if this clause was not made perfectly plain. That was the reason he now moved this Amendment, which only asked that the landlords should get their own.

Amendment moved—

"'In page 12, line 4, after the word 'holdings to insert the words '(2) The value of such arrears of rent, if not agreed upon between the vendor and the Land Commission, shall be fixed by the Judicial Commissioner, and shall be paid by the Land Commission to the vendor over and above the purchase money of the lands.'"—(*The Earl of Belmore.*)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said the Amendment had been moved with great clearness, but the Amendment was in the following words—

> "The value of such arrears of rent, if not agreed upon between the vendor and the Land Commission, shall be fixed by the Judicial Commissioner, and shall be paid by the Land Commission to the vendor over and above the purchase money of the lands."

Those words were perfectly clear and distinct and intelligible. It was an Amendment to Clause 18, and Clause 18 said—

> "The rents and profits of any land agreed to be purchased by the Land Commission, together with any interest under Section 35 of the Act of 1896, and, subject to the provisions of this section, any arrears of rent due at the date of the purchase agreement, and not remitted by the Commission, shall from the date of the agreement be payable to and recoverable by the Commission in like manner as if they were instalments of purchase annuities charged upon holdings."

That was equally clear. It was clear from that that when the Land Commission became the purchasers of land they were entitled to rents, profits and arrears. The Amendment proposed said: "No, you may be owners of rents and profits but not of arrears. The value of those arrears is to be ascertained by the Judicial Commissioner, who is already over-worked, and when it is ascertained it shall be paid by the Land Commission to the landlord over and above the price of the land." He thought that was unreasonable. Under this Bill the landlord was given a right under the clause to get arrears up to twelve months, but this Amendment proposed that he should have the value of the whole of the arrears measured and assessed.

THE EARL OF BELMORE said that they neither expected nor asked for what the noble and learned Lord appeared to think they did. All they asked was that the uncollected rents, which in this Bill were called arrears, but which were really uncollected rents, should not be lost sight of.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said if that was the case the drafting of this Amendment was most infelicitous, because under the clause the arrears were to become the property of the Land Commissioner. The Amendment was applied to that, and the Amendment said "the value of such arrears." It was all referential. That was a clear and intelligible proposition, which could not be accepted. His noble friend, who was so learned on this subject, had not discussed the Amendment, but something in his own mind, which was an entirely different matter. He did not know whether he would be in order——

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I am afraid you are out of order.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: I have not spoken twice.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Yes, you have.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he had been interrupted, and submitted that if, when addressing the House, a speaker was interrupted, and as a matter of courtesy sat down, when the interruption had ceased and he resumed his speech he could not be held to be speaking a second time. However, he had not intended to bring his observations to a close at that point, and perhaps by the indulgence of the House he might be permitted to conclude what he desired to say. He submitted that the words of the Amendment were intended to govern the words of the clause, which were that the rents, profits, and arrears should be the property of the Land Commissioners, and that being so, the Amendment was to the last degree unreasonable. Suppose a bargain had been made with the full knowledge that there were three years arrears, and the Land Commissioners had become the owners of the land, it would be most unreasonable to come there and say that the Land Commissioners should assess the value of those arrears and add it to the purchase money. The Government could not accept the Amendment.

LORD CLONBROCK said it was little use his asking a Question to which the noble and learned Lord could not reply, but what seemed clear to him was that the noble and learned Lord had overlooked the hanging gale, which could only be described by the word arrears. Therefore there must be a distinction drawn between the old arrears and the money due to the landlord, but not enforced under the hanging gale. That was what the noble Lord wished to have paid. With regard to the old arrears they were either worth something, or they were worth nothing, and all they asked was that whatever they were worth should be paid by the Land Commissioners to the landlord. The Land Commissioners had got the land and if the arrears were worth anything they should be paid as well as the value of the land.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said that as he understood the noble Lord's proposal, it would work in this way. The landlord received, to begin with, the purchase money; he also received the bonus, and he was also entitled to one year's arrears out of the purchase price, but it was now proposed that, in addition to all that, the landlord was to be entitled to claim through the Land Commissioners a still further sum on account of arrears. If there were outstanding arrears which were recoverable, would it not be reasonable that the landlord should come to an arrangement with his tenants before the sale, and make a special bargain with regard to those arrears? If the tenant could not find the money, would not the matter be met by the landlord taking those arrears into consideration in fixing the purchase money. He thought the Amendment was of doubtful policy. It was hardly wise in his opinion to entrust the Land Commissioners with the duty of collecting these old arrears.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE admitted that he was becoming hopelessly mixed in this matter, but said, so far as he could see, the position was this: Hitherto, where purchase had not been carried out by direct agreement with the tenants, that was to say, where it was carried out through the Land Judge, or through the Land Commissioners, it had been absolutely impossible for the landlord to say what amount had been received for arrears, and how much he had received for his land. They had received a lump sum, and had been unable to distinguish what was paid for arrears and what was paid for the property they had sold. The Government wanted to continue the practice, but the landlords wanted the moneys ear-marked. They wanted to know what they were getting, not from any motive of wicked or youthful curiosity, but because it was necessary to know in the settlement of arrears, how much of the settlement belonged to the remainder-men. Clause 6 of the Bill was the clause that authorised the Land Commission to carry out these sales They could not give one halfpenny for the arrears, because under the clause they had no authority to do so. Probably, as had often been the reply of the Government, they did get a year's arrears. It was perfectly true that one year's arrears was taken out of the purchase money and put into the vendor's pocket, but the Commission had not collected a year's arrears and added them on to the purchase money, which was what they wanted. Their idea was that the Land Commission would force every tenant to give an extra year's purchase and hand the whole thing over to the landlords, but Clause 6 gave no power whatever to do that. He submitted the proper thing to do was for the Land Commission to value the arrears, and to give so much for the arrears and so much for the land. By Section 35 of the Act of 1896, the vendor was forbidden to collect arrears after sale. In the present case the vendor would be the Land Commission. Therefore if that section was unrepealed, he contended the Land Commission did not intend to collect a half-penny of arrears because they could not collect them after sale, and it was not suggested that they should hang up the sales while they engaged in as fine a land war as had ever taken place. To sum up he would say that there was no such a power under Clause 6, and that there ought to be such a power; and that in the year's rental that was to be taken there would not be a ha'p'orth of arrears.

He would just instance the procedure in one particular case, because this was most important. The House would imagine a landlord had sold to the Land Commission. By Sub-section 2 the moment he had signed his agreement with the Commission he would begin to receive 3½ per cent. on the purchase money at once. If the sale should fail, as he presumed it might, by the title proving defective—and he could not imagine any other reason why the sale should fail—what would happen? After the Commission had signed an agreement with the landlord to purchase from him, the procedure ordered, in case the sale failed, that an account should be rendered to the Commissioners, that the landlord must return the 3½ per cent. he has received, and he is reinstated in his estate. Let them assume that the sale did fail. In that case the landlord had to repay the 3½ per cent., and the Commission reinstated him in the right to collect these arrears which he claimed they had practically remitted while they had the estate, so that the landlord would not get a penny of them. It might be said the Land Commission could not remit a ha'p'orth of arrears during the time the estate vested in them. It was true they could not sign a legal document to do so, but Section 35 of the Act of 1896 provided that no proceedings should be taken for the recovery of arrears pending the carrying out of any sale. Therefore, for the time that the arrears were vested in the Land Commission before the sale fell through, the tenant knew he was not going to be worried about the arrears, and when a man once began to think he did not owe money it was a very difficult matter to persuade him that he did. Section 18 over-rode Sub-section 35 of the Act of 1896, but the operation of this Bill would be guided by the Act of 1896. For what had been engrained into the minds of the people by nine years custom and use could not be smoothly set aside by a stroke of the pen. The landlord having sold to the Land Commission, the Commission would have gone down to the tenants to find out what price they were likely to get from them when they sold the holdings to them, and the tenants would have discussed the prospect of these arrears being remitted. The whole matter would have been talked over from end to end of the district and become engrafted in the people's minds, and then what would happen? It would be inevitable that when the landlord got back the right to collect these areas he would have absolutely lost them.

Three thoughts came into his mind as to the intention of the Government in the working out of the scheme, and he did not like any of the three. Either they intended to collect the arrears and get them out of the purchase money, or else they intended not to collect them and embody them in the purchase money, or else they intended not to collect them and not to take them out of the purchase-money. And that was most likely. The person who would get done was the remainder-man and as this question affected hundreds and thousands in Ireland, they would not be doing their duty in this House if they did not make an emphatic protest against all these arrears being dropped and being taken out of the landlords' pockets.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Contents, 50; Not-Contents, 56.

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Wenlock, L.
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Wolverton, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: In the Committee stage of this Bill the noble Lord the Duke of Abercorn obtained the insertion of words at the end of Sub-section 1 of Clause 23, to this effect—

"Provided that any person aggrieved by any decision of an Estates Commissioner sitting alone, may require his case to be re-considered by the three Estates Commissioners sitting together, and any person interested may require that any question of law shall be referred for the decision of a Judicial Commissioner."

Since the Committee stage there has been some communication between the noble Duke and the advisers of the Government, and a modification of his Amendment has been suggested to which I believe he assents. The modification will be to substitute for the words I have read the following—

"Providing that any question of law may, f the Estates Commissioners think fit, and shall, on the application of any person interested, be referred to the decision of the Judicial Commissioner, unless the Estates Commissioners certify in writing that the application is frivolous."

It will be necessary to insert the further provision—

"That any person aggrieved by any refusal of the Commissioners to so refer any such question, may in the manner prescribed by rules of Court and within the time prescribed by the Judicial Commissioner apply to the High Court or any Judge thereof for an order requiring the Commissioners to so refer the question, and the decision of the High Court or Judge upon any such application shall be final."

Amendment moved—

"In page 13, line 38, after the word 'that' to leave out to the end of the sub-section, and insert the words, 'Provided that any question of law may, if the Estates Commissioners think fit, and shall, on the application of any person interested, be referred to the decision of the Judicial Commissioner unless the Estates Commissioners certify in writing that the application is frivolous.'" —(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"To insert at end of last Amendment the words 'Any person aggrieved by any refusal of the Commissioners to so refer any such question, may in the manner prescribed by rules of Court and within the time precribed by the Judicial Commissioner apply to the High Court or any Judge thereof for an order requiring the Commissioners so to refer the question, and the decision of the High Court or Judge upon any such application shall be final.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I understand that the Earl of Mayo does not move the Amendment standing in his name on this clause, but we propose to insert instead of that another Amendment of which notice has not been given—namely, "on page 14, line 42, we propose to leave out the words 'agents or solicitors' and insert 'land agents, solicitors, or land clerks.'"

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 42, to leave out the words, agents or solicitors,' and insert the words 'land agents, solicitors, or land clerks.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The last Amendment, I believe, is only a verbal one of which I have given notice. It is on page 15, line 2, after "nomination" insert "may be negotiated."

The Duke of Devonshire.

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 2, after the word 'nomination' to insert the words 'may be negotiated.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said the next Amendment stood in his name, and he begged to move it, but he hoped he would be allowed to add certain words. The Amendment, as put down, read as follows—

"Where in the case of the sale of an estate to persons other than the Land Commission an agent has been employed by the vendor to negotiate the sale, such sum as may be sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners may be paid to that agent out of the purchase money as part of the cost connected with the sale. For the purposes of this sub-section 'vendor' shall include the limited owner or a trustee."

The alteration he wished to make was, after the second "may" to add "with the consent of such vendor." This would give them a power of which he thought no landlord, in their Lordships' House or out of it, would not be most glad if they could see their way to give it. It gave the landlord a chance of remunerating a class of men who were unique in the world, and who had done yeoman service for their employers. The position of an agent in Ireland was, as noble Lords who knew anything about the matter would agree, undoubtedly different to that of an agent anywhere else, for the reason that owing to the extremely complicated nature of their land system they were most highly-trained specialists. He had no experience of a large estate in England, but he believed that an agent in England had really to be a good financial man, one who could keep good accounts, and that nothing more was needed, although of course there were other qualities which were desirable. But in Ireland the agent had to be a highly-trained specialist in the land laws of the country, and if the Bill worked, as they all hoped it would work, these men would be absolutely thrown out of employment. They wanted the opportunity of compensating them. He could assure their Lordships that the bonus was not enough, because all the estates did not get the bonus. He admitted that it was a slight alteration of the Settled Lands Act, but he would plead with their Lordships that they were dealing with a very special case, and that in no case out of Ireland could it be turned into a precedent. It had already been done in Ireland more than once, though they were not quite certain whether or not their course of action had been absolutely legal. The passing of this Amendment would absolutely satisfy the qualms of the most crusty trustee, and at the same time it would be a great boon to landlords in Ireland, for it would enable them to remunerate men who had served them faithfully and loyally for a long time.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: I would like to point out to my noble friend that with the general purport and body of the Amendment I entirely agree. I also agree with all that he has said about the land agents, who are a very deserving body and entitled to every sympathy and respect. But I suggest that the closing words of the Amendment might be a little dangerous. All through the Bill the word "vendor" does include limited owners or trustees, and to select this particular Amendment to say that, will be to cast some doubt upon other parts of the Bill. Would it not be better to leave out the last lines. The person responsible for drafting the Bill drew my attention to this matter, and I have no doubt that he is right.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said he thought it would be better if those lines were left out.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: I beg to accept the suggestion of the noble and learned Lord and will leave out from the Amendment the words "for the purpose of this sub-section" vendor "shall include a limited owner or a trustee."

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 6, after the word 'Commission' to insert as a new sub-section the words '(11) Where in the case of the sale of an estate to persons other than the Land Commission an agent has been employed by the vendor to negotiate the sale such sum as may be sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners may with the consent of such vendor be paid to that agent out of the purchase money as part of the costs connected with the sale.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF ARRAN said the Amendment which stood in his name on the Paper was one as to which he could not but feel a certain confidence that it would be accepted by the Government and would meet with the approval of the majority of their Lordships, because it provided equally for the interest of the tenant, the interest of the landlord, and the interest of the British taxpayer. Those of their Lordships who knew Ireland well would recognise that there had been for a very long time an old accusation made against the Government of Ireland on account of their secrecy, simply because there was not sufficient light thrown upon the dealings of their general policy. He had heard it described by prominent Nationalists as the hole-and-corner policy of Dublin Castle. He could not but think that if this Bill was to work pacifically, and if it was to enjoy the confidence of all those affected by it, that all grounds for such an accusation should be removed. But he regretted to see that in the Bill not only were those grounds not removed but there remained much more serious grounds than existed before in previous measures for that old suspicion. Under Section 23 of the Bill, to which he would trouble their Lordships to turn, and under Sub-sections 7 and 11 of that clause, it would be seen that under Sub-section 7 certain regulations were not to be published, or at any rate there was no provision to that effect, whereas the rules under Sub-section 11 were to be published. He believed it might be maintained that the reason why rules under Sub-section 7 were not to be published was because they were departmental regulations; whereas the rules under Sub-section 11, which were to be published, were rules affecting the general policy of the Bill. With all due deference he ventured to assert emphatically that it was just the other way about, and the reason why he thought so was that if they looked at Sub-section 11 they would see that the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland was to be consulted on matters affected thereby. He could not for the life of him see what the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland had to do with the general policy of this Act. If their Lordships read further they would see that these rules should, among other things, provide for—

> "The making of such investigation and the performance of such other duties by the aforesaid officers and persons as may be requisite and practicable, with a view to limiting the costs and expenses of persons applying to the Land Commission to purchase land in pursuance of those provisions, and the expression 'prescribed' in those provisions means unless the context otherwise requires prescribed by those rules."

These rules were surely not stamped as departmental regulations. But if they turned to Sub-section 7, which were supposed to be departmental regulations, what did they find? The sub-section read as follows—

> "The Estates Commissioners in carrying the foregoing provisions of this Act into effect shall be under the general contol of the Lord Lieutenant and shall act in accordance with such regulations as may be made by him from time to time."

What were the foregoing provisions of the Act? They included under Clause 1, the fixing of prices; under Clause 2, the dealing with evicted tenants, under Clause 3, the re-sale to an owner, under Clause 5, the sanction of advances in cases outside the zones; under Clause 6, the purchase of estates by the Land Commission; under Clause 7, the great question of the congested estates and the purchase from the Land Judge; under Clause 13, provisions with regard to sporting and mineral rights. In fact, they contained the whole spirit of the purchase scheme. He would call their attention to one further thing which was absolutely in the interest of the tenants, namely, that Clause 19 contained a compulsory power declaring that unwilling tenants must become purchasers. He could not see how in the world it could be contended that these were departmental regulations. They dealt with the whole spirit of the Act and the most important parts of the Act. He would also call attention to the fact that the powers under these twenty-two foregoing clauses must be exercised exclusively by the Estates Commissioners. As the Bill now stood the whole of the working of that part, which was the most important part of the Bill, would therefore be in the hands of a secret despot. He had no doubt that he would be a benevolent despot, but he did not think that secret despotism of any kind had ever had any success in England, nor had it ever had any success in Ireland. He thought that proceedings under a measure of such vast importance as this, which dealt with such very great issues, should rather be made public and the full light of day thrown upon the general policy under which the measure was to be carried out, rather than that it should be in the hands of any secret despot, whoever he might be. He would add that this concession was one which he thought was earnestly hoped for by all concerned and one which he hoped that the Government would make. It had already been conceded in another place, and he hoped the Government would therefore see their way to concede it now. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 15, line 21, after the word 'all,' to insert the words 'regulations and.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: This Amendment was not moved in Committee, and I have not, therefore, been able to give very much time to its consideration, because the very brief time which was at our disposal has been taken up by considering Amendments of which notice has been given. In fact, I have only seen this Amendment a very few hours ago, and I have not had any opportunity of consulting the Chief Secretary upon the subject further than that I am informed that the Chief Secretary could not, on behalf of the Irish Government, give his consent to the Amendment. I did not quite catch the concluding words which the noble Lord the Earl of Arran used. I think he stated that the Amendment had been accepted in the other House of Parliament. If it was, I do not understand why it does not find a place in the Bill now.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: Am I permitted to speak a second time?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I did not quite catch what you said.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: It was practically the same Amendment as was accepted in the other House, and, if I may give names and dates, it was an Amendment moved by Mr. Butcher on July 1st.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am afraid that, not being aware of what took place on that occasion, it is impossible for me to assent to the Amendment.

LORD DUNBOYNE said it was a very undesirable thing that landlords, owing to the way in which previous Land Acts had been carried out in Ireland, should have no intimation of the manner in which this Bill was to be administered. These rules were supposed to guide the Estates Commissioners, but they were to be secret rules. He did not know who desired them to be secret. So far as he knew, one class of people did not desire it, and they were the landlords. He did not know whether it was particularly in the interests of the tenants that this provision had been put in, or whether it was in the interests of the Government, but certainly the landlords did not desire these secret regulations for they desired that every possible publicity should be given to the working of the measure. It seemed a strange thing that the regulations which were to govern the administration and the acts of the Estates Commissioners were to be secret, while those which were to govern their subordinates were to be published. He saw no reason for this, and therefore hoped that the Amendment would be pressed.

***THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE** said he would like to add one remark on the subject. The noble Lord the Earl of Arran had dealt with the subject very fully, and had given a list of the various things which under the preceding clauses would be affected by the rules and regulations in question. Glancing his eye down the list, he noticed that there were very few things in it which were not absolutely new, and therefore there could be no precedent for them. But there were two things which were practically not new. These were, firstly, the purchasing from owners direct by the Land Commissioners. That was in this Bill, and it had been part of the land system before the Bill was introduced. He would remind the noble Duke that this very subject was dealt with by rules in March, 1897, Order No. 38, which was published in all the big books on the Land Law in Ireland. Secondly, the purchasing of estates from the Land Judge was also dealt with under the rules of March, 1897, Order No. 37. If it was found to be possible and advisable to publish those things in 1897, he could not see why it should not be possible, advisable, and just that they should be published in the autumn of 1903.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: May I ask the indulgence of the House to correct an unfortunate mis-statement I unwittingly made just now. I stated that this Amendment was accepted in the other House. I must correct that. I find it was promised that if the House wished the rules to be laid on the Table of the House, a clause would be brought up on the Report stage to deal with the matter. Apparently nothing more was heard of it.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: If I may add one word before the Amendment is put, I should say that I should have thought that all that it was desired to criticise in Parliament was the action of the Estates Commissioners, and not the regulations under which they took action. The reports of the proceedings of the Estates Commissioners, are to be laid before Parliament, and I should think that that would give a full opportunity for discussing anything in connection with the action of the Estates Commissioners which it may be desirable to discuss in Parliament.

On Question "That those words be there inserted," their Lordships divided:—Contents 46; Not-Contents 62.

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Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

THE EARL OF ARRAN said the next Amendments were consequential on the one the House had just divided upon. He asked leave to withdraw them.

Amendment moved—

"In page 15, line 22, to leave out the words 'the last preceding sub-section' and insert the words 'this section.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 23, after the word 'made' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(13) On the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts whether to the Land Commission or otherwise, the land clerk or land clerks of such estate, of not less than ten years service in estates offices in Ireland, may be transferred to the offices of the Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board, with the assent of his employer, under such rules and regulations as the Lord Lieutenant, with the consent of the Treasury, may determine.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD DIGBY moved to insert a new clause providing that land clerks of ten years' service in an estate office in which a gross annual rental of more than £5,000 was accounted for should be eligible for employment by the Estates Commissioners. He said that this would remove to some extent, the hardships which would be inflicted on a very worthy and trustworthy body of men, who, through no fault of their own, were to be thrown out of employment. The Local Government Act of 1898, provided that the collectors for poor rates should receive compensation for their loss of office. He thought their position was about the same as that of the land clerks, whose services had been found to be very valuable in carrying out the Land Acts.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 23, to insert the following clause: 'Land clerks of ten years' service in an estate office in which a gross annual rental of £5,000 is accounted for, shall be eligible for employment by the Estates Commissioners.'"—(*Lord Digby.*)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: My noble friend has referred to a class of men who are very deserving. Everyone connected with Ireland has personal knowledge that these clerks working in the land office are a very deserving body of men. I know many of them myself, and the principal of them is chairman in the estate office of my noble friend. But accepting the Amendment is quite another question. Everyone would be glad that every field of employment should be opened to them, and that they should be deemed to be eligible for any employment in the service of the State or of any private individuals who may wish to employ them. But I am informed it might lead to legal difficulties and questions if we were to declare in the Bill that these persons were eligible for employment in a particular way. "Eligible for employment by the Estates Commissioners" might mean that they would have some claim to be transferred to that body and to be appointed by them.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

LORD CLONBROCK said that the Amendment which stood in his name, did so erroneously, because it should have been in the name of his noble friend the Earl of Donoughmore, but in his absence he would, with the permission of the House, move it. The Amendment referred to the same subject that was discussed on Clause 18, namely, that of arrears, but in this case it applied to sales made direct to the tenants. He thought that the arguments in favour of the Amendment were very much the same as those urged in the case of the other Amendment. The matter in this instance was not quite so complicated, because the landlord in dealing direct with his tenants might make agreements with his tenants as to the manner in which arrears should be dealt with, although there would always be the difficulty that the tenants would have practically to pay one year's rent in one half-year, in addition to which there was the difficulty that if the arrears were collected by the Land Commission the vendors would be anxious to have some arrangement so as to know how much of the purchase money was paid for the land and how much for arrears. Whatever arrears were handed to them, if they were of any value, the vendor ought to have them, and if there was no value in them the matter would rest and he would get nothing. He hoped that the Government would see their way to accept the Amendment he had placed on the Paper.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 28, after the word 'estate' to insert the words 'to persons other than the Land Commission.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: The Amendment moved so temperately is consequential upon discussions which have taken place, and I hope the noble Lord will be satisfied with them.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 29, to leave out the word 'hereinafter mentioned' and insert the words 'of the agreement for the purchase of the holding.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, line 33, to leave out from the word 'use' to the end of the sub-section."—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE on behalf of the Duke of Devonshire moved the following Amendment.

Amendment moved.

"In page 17, line 42, after the first word 'payable' to insert the words 'out of the purchase-money or otherwise.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF ARRAN said the next Amendment, which stood in his name, had the same object as that moved by the Lord President. The reason he moved it was that it was considered in many quarters that the Lord President's Amendment scarcely protected the legal owner of an estate. Their Lordships would recollect the fact that this Amendment was moved by him (the Earl of Arran) in Committee with the object of preventing a mortgagee, in a case where he refused to prove his title, and the interest originally amounted to 4 per cent., or 5 per cent., from taking the 3¼ per cent., merely as an instalment, and from proceeding against the owner of the estate for the balance of the money on other securities or lands he might hold. It would be remembered that all well-drawn mortgages gave two securities, one by the property, and the other by the personal covenant. Under the previous section when an estate was sold direct to the Land Commission or sold direct to the tenants ——

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): The words after "purchase-money or otherwise" were adopted. I do not think the Amendment is receivable after that.

THE EARL OF ARRAN: Then I beg leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 17, line 42, after the first word 'payable' to insert the words 'out of the purchase-money, or recoverable under any agreement or covenant, or chargeable on any other lands or securities which may be subject to such claim along with the lands sold.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD MACNAGHTEN moved an Amendment which he said was intended to meet the case where there was a covenant in a mortgage that the money should not be called in for a certain period. If an estate were sold it would be only right to relieve the vendor from the covenant. He understood that his noble and learned friend had no objection to the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, line 2, after the word 'advances' to insert the words 'provided that in case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts a vendor shall be entitled to pay off any charge or incumbrance thereon, notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or other instrument to the contrary.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

The Earl of Arran.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: Anything my noble and learned friend suggests would receive every respectful consideration. I do see that it might be some hardship under the circumstances that a vendor should be precluded from paying off any encumbrance or charge when he has ceased to be connected with the old property. The people who have lent the money might feel the proposal possibly to be some grievance. Very likely under the altered conditions they would not object, but I cannot be certain that it may not be challenged on the grounds I have indicated in the other House, if not here.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD MACNAGHTEN moved an Amendment providing that the subsection should not apply in cases where the Land Commission were satisfied that it was not owing to any act or default of the mortgagee that his title was not established and his money invested.

Amendment moved—

"To insert after the last Amendment the words: 'Provided also that this sub-section shall not apply in any case where the Land Commission are satisfied that it is not owing to any act or default of such person that his title is not established, and the amount of his claim invested as aforesaid."—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said the next Amendment dealt with a purely legal point. He would ask permission to make a slight alteration in the Amendment as printed. The Amendment read as follows—

"(4.) Notwithstanding anything in this section any vendor or incumbrancer may require the Court to invest the purchase money, pending distribution, in any of the securities from time to time authorised by law for the investment of trust funds."

He desired to leave out the word "require" and insert the words "apply to." The object of the Amendment was simply to give a suitor the right to apply to the Court to invest the purchase money. Under the present circumstances the Court might say to him "Why! you have no business here, you have no *locus standi.*" The Amendment was moved with the object of ensuring that such a person should have that *locus*, and he hoped it would be accepted.

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, after line 12, to insert the following new sub-section: '(4) Notwithstanding anything in this section any vendor or incumbrancer may apply to the Court to invest the purchase money, pending distribution, in any of the securities from time to time authorised by law for the investment of trust funds.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Lord has altered the Amendment in an important respect, by proposing to substitute for the words "require the Land Commission" the words "apply to the Land Commission." That is a very material alteration. The Amendment as it originally stood was one we could not accept. Under the Bill it would not be necessary for the Land Commission as a general rule to call upon the National Debt Commissioners for the allowance of any money until the title to the money had been ascertained. If the Amendment were accepted I am told it would seriously interfere with the financial scheme of the Bill. Whether the modification of the Amendment would remove that difficulty I am unable to say, but it is placing your Lordships rather at a disadvantage that we should have an Amendment not on the Paper put before us at the last moment.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said he thought the Amendment with the alteration was perfectly reasonable, and he did not think it would put the Land Commission or the Treasury to any expense whatever. It would simply authorise the person who was interested in the purchase money to apply to the Court to invest the purchase money in any of the securities from time to time authorised by law for the investment of trust funds. The object was to give such person a *locus standi*; nothing more than that. Of course the Court did not act on its own motion, it required that it should be put in motion by somebody. The Amendment meant that any person interested in the matter should be authorised to say "Please invest the money in such and such a security." It would be for the Court to say whether or not they would do so. It was only reasonable that persons interested in the money should have the right to apply to the Court.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: In view of the explanation given by the noble and learned Lord we may accept the Amendment in its altered form.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD MACNAGHTEN, on behalf of Lord Dunboyne, moved to insert the following new sub-section. He said that this Amendment was moved in Committee, when the Lord Chancellor of Ireland said he thought that there was no such Act referred to, and that it applied to Ireland as well as to England. In point of fact the law only applied to England.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: That is so.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said the object of the Amendment was that trustees, who had acted honourably but had not complied strictly with the requirements of the trust in accepting a security, might apply to the Court and get relief from that breach of trust, which was purely technical. That was a more common thing in Ireland than in England in consequence of the fall in the value of landed securities. There were many cases in which, according to the strict rules of the Court of Chancery, a person who had a beneficial interest might call upon the trustees to replace money lost through no fault of their own. All that the Amendment proposed was that trustees in Ireland should have the same relief as they were entitled to in England in proper cases. It was said that, unless they gave immunity of that sort, trustees would be slow to go into the Court of Chancery, because there might be evils of this kind for which, if they went into Court and the whole history of the estate and the dealings with it were made public, they might be made answerable. As this was the law in England he did not think his noble and learned friend would have any objection that it should also be the law in Ireland.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 3, after the word 'section,' to insert as a new sub-section: '(4) In the case of all proceedings in relation to any lands sold under the Land Purchase Acts, or any charges thereon, or any moneys realised thereby, if it appears to the Court that a trustee is or may be personally liable for any breach of trust, whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the passing of this Act, but has acted honestly and reasonably, and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust, and for omitting to obtain the directions of the Court in the matter in which he committed such breach, then the Court may relieve the trustee, either wholly or partly, from personal liability for the same.' "—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: I am very much in sympathy with this Amendment. It is, as my noble and learned friend says, the law in England under the Judicial Trustee Act passed in 1896. I see no objection to the Amendment. As it is the law in England there is no *primâ facie* reason why it should not be the law in Ireland where we have just as many difficulties to meet. It is difficult to say whether we should amend the general law relating to trustees in a Land Purchase Act. There is a clause which states that no trustee shall be liable for any default by proceeding under that particular section and investing the funds. The noble Lord, Lord Dunboyne, wishes to give a clean bill of health to a trustee for everything he has done and is doing now under the Trustee Act. When my noble and learned friend Lord Macnaghten gives all the great weight of his legal position to this Amendment, and is not appalled by the fact that he is seeking to remedy what is a deficiency in Irish legislation under a Bill which can hardly be said to be germane to it, I can hardly justify myself in resisting his contention.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD CLONBROCK moved a series of Amendments which he said were for the object of inserting the words "Land Judge" instead of "Land Commission." They were advised by those who were familar with the working of such matters that it would be a great convenience and saving of expense if the Land Judge had power to act in cases under this section instead of it being necessary for him to refer the appointment of a public trustee in each case to the Land Commission.

Amendments moved—

"In page 27, line 36, after the word 'by' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or'; in line 41, after the words 'apply to' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or'."

"In page 28, line 1, after the word 'and' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or'; in line 3, after the word 'to' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or'; in line 5, after the word 'and' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or'; in line 8, after the word 'section' to insert the words 'the Land Judge, or'."—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: If the noble Lord looks at Sections 14 and 15 he will find that the Land Judge has already been introduced into the matter.

LORD CLONBROCK: In that case I ask leave to withdraw the Amendments.

Amendments, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"After Clause 55 to insert the following clause: 'The word "estate" in section 5 of the Act of 1881 shall include such lands of a landlord as are retained by him or re-purchased upon any sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts, including this Act, and the Land Commission may authorise a resumption under the said section, notwithstanding that the holding in respect of which such resumption is authorised is held at a judicial rent fixed for a first or subsequent statutory term.' "—(*Lord Inchiquin.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE said that an Amendment to this clause had been put down in his name because his noble friend Lord Castletown, whose Amendment it was, was not certain of being present. He noticed that his noble friend was present, but would not move the Amendment. As his noble friend had left him in the lurch he would try to do his best with it. The reason for moving the Amendment was that it was impossible in practice to get the purchase agreements signed by all parties at the same time. They must get them signed at the time and moment when the tenant was agreeable to buy. The law was absolute that once an agreement was signed they could not collect any rent behind the date of the agreement, and from that date they were to receive instead of rent the interest on the purchase money. Tenants in Ireland paid rent either half-yearly or yearly. If purchase agreements were executed, say, in March, on an estate where the rents were paid on the 1st of November, the owner would lose under the existing law of the land all the rent that had accrued since the 1st of the preceding November until the date he signed the agreement. That was to say that in many cases he might lose one-third or even a half-year's rent. The object of the Amendment, as he understood it, was to ensure that he should not lose that rent and for that reason he hoped their Lordships would see the reason and justice of it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 32, line 15, after the word 'matter' to insert as a new sub-section the words: '(6.) In the cases of sales to tenants other than sales by the Land Commission or sales by the Land Judge, the date of which interest on the purchase money payable under Sub-section 2 of Section 35 of the Act of 1896 shall begin to be payable shall be—(*a*) If the agreement for purchase be made on any first day of May or first day of November from the date of such agreement; (*b*) In all other cases from a date to be specified in the agreement, and not being earlier than the gale day immediately preceding the date of agreement; and such interest shall be dealt with according to the terms of the said sub-section.—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

LORD CASTLETOWN said he did not move the Amendment at the instance of his noble friend the Earl of Donoughmore for the very sufficient reason that he had always been very jealous of the proceedings in their Lordships' House. When he found an Amendment that he had moved last night was put down in the name of his noble friend the Earl of Donoughmore, he felt that the latter was the proper person to move it. Having regard, however, to the able speeches they had heard from him during the last two nights, he felt that the Amendment was in far safer hands than his own. The noble Lord the Earl of Donoughmore had often had the pleasure of dealing with these Amendments and sometimes there had been a friendly friction between them which might have lost a valuable Amendment to him. He (Lord Castletown) felt that if he left this Amendment in the hands of his noble friend, there would be much more chance of its being carried. He could not for the life of him see why His Majesty's Government could not accept the Amendment, as it was a remarkably simple one. It inflicted no grievance on the Treasury and merely earmarked the fact that when an agreement was come to between the tenant who had purchased and the landlord who sold, the interest which the Treasury had agreed to produce should start from that moment and be paid to the landlord, who had sold his property, and was entitled to the interest.

THE EARL OF BELMORE said the noble Lord had put into the Amendment the first day of May or the first day of November, but these were by no means universal days on which agreements were made, for sometimes the dates were the 25th of March and the 25th of September. He did not know why the Amendment was worded that way.

LORD CASTLETOWN: This Amendment was drafted by one of the ablest men on the judicial body in Dublin, with a view to lessening the trouble that might arise under these agreements.

THE EARL OF BELMORE: He evidently forgot that there were other dates.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND: This matter was discussed somewhat on the Committee stage, and then I gave the reasons that occurred to me why I did not think the noble Lord, who then moved his own Amendment, had made out his case. I have listened very attentively to both my noble friends, one who explained why he did, and the other who explained why he did not, move the Amendment. I have heard no reason for making the change proposed. I think every reasonable provision is made to deal with these matters. It may lead to elements of difficulty and confusion if the Amendment is accepted, while at the same time it does not add any substantial clearness to the operation of the clause.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 34, line 38, after the word 'Commissioner' to insert as a new sub-section: '(8) In all cases in which the Commssioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues are parties to any proceedings in the High Court or the Land Commission, the Court or Judge shall have power to award costs to or against said Commissioners.'"—(*The Earl of Drogheda*).

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE moved to insert the following new subsection—

> "(3) The powers and provisoes for the redemption or satisfaction of superior interests conferred by Section 31 of the Act of 1896 shall be varied and extended so as to enable the owner to satisfy a terminable charge by investing a capital sum in investments authorised pursuant to this Act, the interest on which will be sufficient to pay the charge, and thereupon the balance of the purchase money shall be discharged from any lien in respect of such superior interest, and upon the termination of the charge the said capital sum so invested shall revert to the person or persons to whom the benefit of the succession would have accrued on the termination of the terminable charge had the estate not been sold."

He said that he moved this Amendment in Committee and desired to know if the Government were prepared to accept it. He was told that there were already powers in the Bill to carry out the object he had in view, which was to enable moneys to be set aside to pay a jointure instead of purchasing an annuity. The noble Marquess stated that under the provisions of the Bill this could already be done, but he had looked into the matter and found cases on the point in Cherry's Irish Land Law as follows:—

> "Section 31: Land Act of 1896, and notes thereon, page 567 *et sequitur*."
>
> "*Note 'C' page 569*: Where a 'superior interest' is redeemed under this section it becomes a lien upon the purchase money, and must be discharged by payment of its capitalised value as a bulk sum, even though it is a terminable annuity, such as a jointure, the owner of which objects to be paid off: *Owens Estate* (No. 3), 1900, 1.I.T. 151 (C.A.) And the annuitant can insist on this right, even though the owners desire to have the money retained in Court, and the annuity paid as it falls due: *Alexander's Estate* (1900). 1.I.R. 20. (Ross J.)."
>
> "*Note 'I'* The term 'superior interest,' as defined by this sub-section, is one of very wide signification. It is not confined to paramount estates, or perpetual charges, but includes a life annuity, secured by a term of years and charged upon the land: *Alexander's Estate* (1000). 1.I.R. 20. (Ross, J.) It includes also, an annuity by way of jointure not secured by a term, even where an order has been made by the Land Judge to sell the estate discharged from the jointure: *Owens Estate* (No. 3), (1900) 1.I.R. 151 (C.A)."
>
> "It apparently also includes a contingent liability for any annuity, rent-charge, or rent; as to which see Sec. 34 (3) and note thereto, page 575."

He thought the amendment was a most reasonable one to propose. He had mentioned all the drawbacks which the Bill, as it stood, presented, and he hoped the Government would accept the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 36, line 29, after the word 'deposit,' to insert as a new sub-section: '(3) The powers and provisoes for the redemption or satisfaction of superior interests conferred by Section 31 of the Act of 1896 shall be varied or extended so as to enable the owner to satisfy a terminable charge by investing a capital sum in investments authorised pursuant to this Act, the interest on which will be sufficient to pay the charge, and thereupon the balance of the purchase money shall be discharged from any lien in respect of such superior interest, and upon the termination of the charge the said capital sum so invested shall revert to the person or persons to whom the benefit of the succession would have accrued on the termination of the terminable charge had the estate not been sold.'" (*Lord Oranmore and Browne.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I understand that the Land Commission have no power without the consent of all parties to do what is proposed in this new sub-section. If it is desired that they should exercise this power without the consent of all parties interested, the Amendment should be made in Clause 24, which deals with the distribution of purchase money. The sub-section, which is proposed here, has nothing whatever to do with Clause 67, with which we are now dealing. It is also imperfectly drafted, because the purchase money is distributed by the Land Commission, and not by the owner, as has been pointed out. There would be no objection, I am advised, to giving an undertaking to insert an Amendment to Clause 24, as I have suggested, on the Third Reading of the Bill.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: These words ought not to have been omitted in Committee. They were not consequential upon the Amendment carried out by the noble Lord, the Lord Macnaghten.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 42, line 23, after the word 'rehearings' to insert the words 'and those rules shall among other things provide for an *ad valorem* scale of fees to be paid on notices of appeal or re-hearing.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON moved to insert the following clause:—

"Where any agricultural labourer has made, or concurred in the making of, a representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and within 12 months thereafter is dismissed from his employment, he may apply to the County Court Judge for compensation, on the ground that he has been dismissed by reason of his having made, or concurred in making, the representation, and if in the opinion of the County Court Judge he was dismissed for the reason aforesaid the County Court Judge may award him compensation not exceeding three months' wages."

He said that it would be within the recollection of their Lordships that a clause somewhat similar to this was in the Bill as it came up to that House, but that clause was amended by altering the Court to which the application for compensation should be made from the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, or the Petty Sessional Court, to the County Court. Subsequently to that, the clause as a whole was rejected on a Division without any further discussion. As the clause in its amended form was hardly discussed, and he thought that the second Division was taken somewhat hastily, he ventured to put it down again in its amended form in order to give their Lordships an opportunity of further considering it. He did not wish to take up the time of the House unduly on the matter, but if their Lordships thought that it was advisable to reconsider the matter, they would now have the opportunity of doing so. He entertained a strong opinion, as he expressed in Committee the other night, in favour of the principle of the clause, although he did not pledge himself to all its details. He thought it was substantially improved by the words "County Court Judge" being inserted, and that some protection for the labourer was needed. He did not think that noble Lords opposite need have any serious grounds of apprehension if the clause were entertained, and if it were rejected by their Lordships' House it might give rise to an unfortunate feeling, and produce friction at the time when the labouring classes, as well as all other classes, in Ireland, hoped that an era of peace might be inaugurated. He therefore begged to move the insertion of the clause in its amended shape.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 94 to insert the following clause—'Where any agricultural labourer has made, or concurred in the making of, a representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and within twelve months thereafter is dismissed from his employment, he may apply to the County Court Judge for compensation, on the ground that he has been dismissed by reason of his having made, or concurred in making the representation, and if in the opinion of the County Court Judge he was dismissed for the reason aforesaid, the County Court Judge may award him compensation not exceeding three months wages.' "—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

LORD INCHIQUIN said that when the clause came up in the Committe he moved its rejection, although he then stated that as it was amended he had less objection to it than when it appeared in its original form. He still had certain objections to it, and one of them was the fact that they were to go into a higher Court to settle the matter, and therefore the costs would have to be paid on a higher scale. Those costs were wholly irrecoverable from a labourer who was only earning 2s. 6d. a week.

LORD CASTLETOWN: He draws 2s. 6d. per day.

LORD INCHIQUIN said he intended to say 2s. 6d. per day. That fact was the reason why he moved the rejection of the clause in Committee. The strongest argument against the clause which he had heard was urged by the noble Lord, Lord Robertson, who, he thought, well maintained that the clause raised before the Court the question of motive. He did not think that anything would be able to get over the question of the landlord's motive in dismissing a labourer when the question was brought before a Petty Sessional Court or a County Court Judge. While they were in Committee he also mentioned a case which came under his own notice, in which no less than 203 persons might act under this clause, and if he or their employers dismissed any of them, they would be able to proceed against their employer to the extent of a sovereign, without any power of appeal being given to the employer. He still objected to the clause on these grounds.

LORD CASTLETOWN felt rather strongly about the Amendment brought forward by his noble friend Lord Monteagle of Brandon, and he hardly thought that his noble friend Lord Inchiquin had proved any justification for striking out the clause. He felt, however, that the justification for the clause, which he granted was rather a serious one, was this. One knew, and anyone who had lived in the agricultural parts of Ireland where labourers were employed knew, that very often some of those men made a representation in order to have a good house given to them, where at present they had a hovel. They put forward that representation, which came before the District Council, and eventually, perhaps, the Council were prepared to build the house. It was very likely that some objection would be raised by a farmer. He did not think it was a case of the landlords objecting, because he had always found that the landlords of Ireland had been very generous to the labourers, and had not insisted upon their strict rights. The men who had insisted upon their strict rights had been the niggardly farmers who refused to give the labourers a small portion of land, which might give him a good home and very likely the advantage of labouring in other parts of his county. It was against such men that this Amendment was aimed, and he thought it was justifiably aimed at them. They were men who were very often determined to get every atom of land they could into their own hands. They resisted the chance of these labourers getting a small holding, labourers who worked not so much for them as for the outside public. He strongly advised his noble friend Lord Monteagle of Brandon to persist in this Amendment. He thought it was a perfectly fair one, although his noble friend had not put forward the strong point which he (Lord Castletown) had ventured to place before the House, namely, that the labourers, when they were dealing with tenant farmers, and as they would eventually deal with tenant purchasers, would find their position a very difficult and a very unfavourable one. There were many cases in which a landlord had placed a labourer on a plot of land where that labourer would be required, and he also knew of many cases in the South of Ireland where the labourer had been placed on a plot of land because he would give labour to the district round him. He did not think it was likely that the landowner who placed the plot of land at his disposal would refuse employment to or attempt to dismiss a labourer because he might make, or concur in making, an application for a cottage or a piece of land. It was not impossible, however, that the tenant farmers, some of whom were district councillors, would take that action, and in such cases he thought that something ought to be done for the labourers who had very few friends, and belonged to a deserving class. He thought that the Amendment would preserve in Ireland one of the most valuable classes, and he should therefore support it.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN said there appeared to be great diversity of opinion in the House respecting this clause, and the question of labourers. He ventured to suggest to the noble Lord, Lord Monteagle of Brandon, that he should not press the Amendment at the present time, but if when the Bill came back from the other House, and the latter had thought it necessary and requisite to re-insert the clause, they should give them the liberty of doing so.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: That is impossible.

THE EARL OF WESTMEATH observed that the noble Lord was mistaken in saying that the conclusion they came to the other day was arrived at without due consideration. This particular clause had been debated in Committee, and had been considered from every point of view.

*LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON: I was simply talking about what occurred in this House, and was not referring to any discussion in private Committees outside.

THE EARL OF WESTMEATH said they objected to the clause altogether. They only accepted the Amendment which the noble Lord, Lord Emly, proposed in Committee, and which put the decision of the matter into the hands of the County Court Judge, because they thought it would make matters somewhat better, and not because they were in favour of the clause. They had, however, rejected the clause by a very large majority after arguments which appeared to him to be unanswerable. He strongly deprecated the fact that the noble Lord, without consultation with any of them, should have come forward and proposed to upset the arrangement made so recently. He should most strongly oppose the insertion of this clause.

THE EARL OF BELMORE strongly objected to including any clause at all relating to the labourers in the Land Bill. This matter of the labourers had hitherto been dealt with under a separate set of Acts which in themselves practically formed a code. They were not under the Land Commission in any way but were administered by the Local Government Board with power of appeal to the Privy Council. It had been his lot to sit on those appeals under the presidency of his noble and learned friend, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland. It was said that the Government intended to bring in a Labourers Bill next session, and, if so, would it not be better to leave this matter to be dealt with when that Bill was introduced, for really the clause was outside the scope of the measure they were now discussing.

*THE EARL OF MEATH said he yielded to none in his sympathy with agricultural labourers, but he could not agree with the noble Lord, Lord Monteagle of Brandon, that it would be a wise thing to pass this clause. It appeared to him that it would be creating suspicion, animosity, and quarrels between employers and employed, for employers would be afraid lest one of their labourers should sign one of these applications, and every labourer would be thinking whether he could get money out of his employer. That would in a great measure be encouraging fraud. He had never known of an instance in which any labourer about him or in his county had ever been intimidated because he sent in one of these requisitions, while, on the other hand, he had known large numbers of labourers who signed the requisitions but had absolutely no interest in them, and who did not even know the labourer for whom the cottage was demanded, or where the cottage was to be placed. They, in fact, only signed the requisitions because they were asked by one of their friends to do so, and they knew no more about the matter than the man in the moon. He hoped that the House would not listen to the arguments adduced by his noble friend, Lord Monteagle of Brandon

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: This question was discussed at some length the other evening when we, who sit on this Bench, voted in favour of the clause as it stood in the Bill, and against the Amendment then put forward. The amended clause moved this evening by the noble Lord, Lord Monteagle of Brandon, substitutes the County Court Judge for the Petty Sessions Court, which is an additional safeguard to the clause, and if he presses the Amendment we shall support him.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN had not the honour of being an Irishman, but on an occasion like this, when they were dealing with component parts of the United Kingdom, he thought they might be allowed to read the clause and consider what it meant. He did not know what might be the term of engagement of an agricultural labourer in Ireland; he presumed it was a fortnight or a month. What did the clause say?

> "Where any agricultural labourer has made or concurred in the making of a representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts 1883 to 1896, and within twelve months thereafter is dismissed from his employment, he may apply to the County Court Judge for compensation on the ground that he has been dismissed by reason of his having made or concurred in making the representation, and if in the opinion of the County Court Judge he was dismssed for the reason aforesaid the County Court Judge may award him compensation not exceeding three months' wages."

He put it to the House whether or not that was a most extraordinary assumption to make. Could it be made in England, in Scotland, or anywhere except in Ireland, and could it be made in Ireland under this Bill? He submitted that unless some very strong reason were given for making an arrangement of this the clause was one which in common justice ought not to pass.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR was proceeding to put the Question when

*LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON said: May I ask the noble and learned Earl on the wool-sack a Question before he puts the Question?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Order, order.

***LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON**: I only wish to say——

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Order, order.

***LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON**: May I ask a Question?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Order, order.

On Question, "That the clause be inserted."

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THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I beg to give notice that this question having been decided by so small a majority, I shall raise it again on the Third Reading of the Bill.

THE EARL OF WESTMEATH: The noble Earl has only anticipated what several of us are going to do.

Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow, and to be printed as amended. (No. 209.)

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived.

[THIRD READING.]

Order of the Day for Third Reading read.

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I think I have a right to say a few words on the Third Reading of this Bill. I was unable to be here on the occasion of the Second Reading, otherwise I should have wished to make some remarks upon it. I do not like to leave it without saying something, as I attach very great importance to this question. My Lords, the question of the Navy is, I need hardly say, one of the utmost importance to this country, and one in which I have always taken the greatest possible interest.

With regard to the expenditure on the Navy we are getting to very large sums, and I think a word of caution ought to be uttered with regard to the continual increase of the Naval Votes. I do not want to go into the whole question of the Naval Votes to-night, but I should like to say a few words on the question which intimately belongs to it, namely, the question of these naval works. I am quite aware that it was absolutely necessary when the Fleet was so altered and the dimensions of the vessels were so altered that better accommodation in the dockyards should be provided. No one felt that more than I did when I had the honour of being at the head of the Admiralty, and there was nothing in the work of the Board of the Admiralty, over which I presided, in which I took a greater interest, or felt a greater pride, than that of seeing that the works and the dockyards should be put into a proper condition. Up to that time there was really no accommodation for the increased Fleet or the larger vessels, and it was absolutely essential both with regard to the size and number of ships, and to the altered mode of warfare which had come into vogue, that very large alterations should be made in the naval works. The Board over which I presided initiated the principle of the works of which the present Bill is the enlargement. But what we proposed then was very humble and small in comparision with the enormous dimensions to which the Navy has now grown. I think I am right in saying that the naval loans now amount to something like £31,000,000 and that very soon they will amount to £40,000,000. I look upon this as a very serious matter. I do not at all say that the great works are not necessary, but I cannot help thinking that some check or some greater caution than has hitherto been shown should be shown in regard to the increase of these large works.

I do not want, particularly at this late hour, to go at length into the details of the Bill which is now before your Lordships, but I should like to refer to two points. There is a proposal for establishing a new naval base or a dockyard—we do not know which it is to be—in Scotland. I quite admit that there is a very important report in the hands of the Admiralty with regard to the berthing of ships which shows that there must be a very considerable increase in the size, and the quantity of basins and berthing places in our different yards. But I do think it is a very serious matter indeed to start a new base, for my experience of having new centres is this, that directly you get a new centre, and an independent centre, you increase enormously the expenditure which has to be found. So far as I can see I should very much prefer to see almost double the amount which is supposed to be going to be spent on this new Scotch base spent on the old dockyards and the old naval bases, rather than on a new one, for the reason that I have given, namely, that the moment you get a new establishment you increase the expenditure enormously. With regard to this new naval base itself there is no doubt a great deal to be said about want of accommodation, but I cannot help thinking that though this report has a very great deal in it, I am not convinced after reading the report that a great deal more might not have been done in regard to increasing the accommodation at the existing naval yards. When I was at the Admiralty we set in motion enormous works at Devonport, and those have not yet been finished. It might be difficult, but it would not be impossible to increase the two basins there by taking up new ground. Then there is also Chatham. A great deal has been said about the increase of the works there, but I think there is still an enormous amount of expansion to be done to the dockyard there. Then there is Portland, for which I am responsible. There, too, a great deal of additional accommodation might be had, while at Portsmouth there could be a considerable expansion. Therefore, although I am quite aware of the necessity of considerable expansion in our Dockyards. I deprecate the necessity of founding this new naval base as I feel it will increase enormously the already heavy expenditure on the Navy and on the dockyards.

I should like to make one remark upon this, and it is that, at present, we have no estimate whatever as to what the cost of this new base—I call it a new base—at Rosyth will be. There is nothing approaching an estimate as to what will be the expenditure there. It is said that it is necessary for the purposes of accomodation, but it is also said that it is desirable on account of strategical reasons. We have not had that point threshed out sufficiently. I am not myself convinced of the necessity of having a new naval base on account of strategical reasons. My Lords, of course we all acknowledge that an enormous change has taken place in regard to the Navy by the introduction of steam, but I do not think the introduction of steam has materially altered the circumstances that existed in the old days when we were more often in great naval wars than we are at the present time. In the old days the sailing ships used to lie in the Downs, and we also had the Nore a little further north, but since then—and that also commenced when I had the honour of being at the Admiralty—we commenced the very large harbour at Dover which will be a very important strategical position for the Navy in the future. It will, as I believe, amply take the place and very efficiently take the place, that the Downs formerly occupied and which has now become impossible on account of torpedo attacks. Well, my Lords, I am not at all sure that we are increasing our naval strength by giving another point of defence as we shall be doing if this northern port is created. One thing with regard to defence is that the fewer points of defence we have, unless they are absolutely necessary, the better it is and the stronger we are. I therefore doubt that on strategical grounds this great expenditure in the North will be necessary. I have very little doubt myself that a very large expenditure will be involved by this. If we are to have a dockyard there, such as we have at Portsmouth, or Chatham, or at some of the other ports, there will be an enormous expenditure involved. I do not like to let this Bill pass through your Lordships' House without expressing my doubts as to the policy of this, and my protest, although it may not be a very strong one, against the continual and increasing expenditure of the Navy. No one wishes more than I do that the Navy should be absolutely strong for all the great purposes for which we require it as a nation, but I think there is a necessity in the present day of someone occasionally sounding a warning note as to the enormous continual expenditure upon it, for I am afraid that there will come a day when there will be a serious reaction if we go on without some limit to this expenditure. My Lords, there is no doubt that with increased ships and with the increased size of ships there is continual expenditure in other ways, and I thought it right to draw attention to this, for I am afraid that in the present day we have got into enormously lavish expenditure without always demanding sufficient reasons why this expenditure should be necessary.

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, I am very far from complaining of what the noble Earl has said. On the contrary I agree with much of the matter of his speech. The naval expenditure which is forced upon this country is undoubtedly in itself an evil, though I believe it to be an absolutely necessary and unavoidable evil because, what governs the conditions of this expenditure is not the option of this country but what other naval Powers choose to spend. All parties and conditions in this country are united in agreeing that we cannot allow our naval strength to fall below a certain point, and therefore I maintain in the fullest possible manner, without the least reserve, that the naval expenditure to which this country is now committed has been forced upon it. When you talk of naval expenditure you do not only mean expenditure on ships, for there is no use in having ships unless you have the men to man them. If you have the men to man the ships, you must have barracks and hospitals and everything the men require; and if you have the ships you require the stores for them; the magazines to hold the ammunition; places where the ships can be repaired, and what is more immediately the subject of our debate to-night, places where they can be housed, or, as naval parlance goes, berthed. I go a little further than the noble Lord in one respect. I do not think he will differ from me, but he did not make the exact point. I say that every penny we are obliged to spend on what I call bricks and mortar for the Navy is in itself an evil, but you must have this accommodation for men and ships. I think the noble Earl will see how far I am in agreement with the principal matter of his speech, when I would ask him to remember that I am responsible for making this Naval Works Bill the final Bill as regards new items. I have arranged with the Treasury, and announced publicly in both Houses of Parliament that, although further Bills will be required to complete the estimates for works already authorised, or now being authorised, no new works will be added in the future, and that is in itself I think a large contribution to that caution for which the noble Earl pleaded. This series of works loans was initiated by the noble Earl himself, and I think it was by no means the least—if he will allow me to say so—of his remarkable contributions to the efficiency of the Fleet. The noble Earl did two things. He insisted that the expansion of the Fleet should be a real one and not a sham one; that besides providing the ships, the men, docks, and stores should also be provided. He went further, and he made up for the arrears of the past. What your Lordships and the country are now paying for is not only the expansion of the Fleet, but also what I do not hesitate to describe as the gross neglect of the auxiliary services of the Navy in generations gone by. Of this neglect there was nothing more glaring than the want of provision of dockyard accommodation.

The noble Earl, after his preliminary remarks, passed on to deal with the particular base at Rosyth. The Berthing Committee, to which he alluded, and the Report of which is not only in the possession of the Board of Admiralty, but is in the possession of your lordships, proved, I think, to absolute demonstration that without the creation of a new naval base there simply was not room, and room could not be made in which to place the ships. The noble Earl does not quite agree with me, but I venture to differ from him entirely. I think the Committee proved that there was no further room for expansion at Portsmouth, that when the works to be authorised under this Bill were completed there would be no room for further expansion at Chatham, and that although there was the possibility of a little further expansion at Devonport, the expansion would not meet the case, and it would be far more expensive in proportion to what it would supply for the fulfilments of the demands of the Fleet, than the new base. The noble Earl also alluded to Portland, but for these purposes Portland does not meet the case. Portland, as Dover will be, is no more than an anchorage. There are no barracks, no stores, no magazines, and there is no opportunity of doing the smallest repairs, it is simply an enclosed anchorage, as Dover will be in the future, and, therefore, it belongs to a totally different class of naval base from that which we are now considering. It is true that there is no final estimate in this Bill for Rosyth. It would not have been possible, my Lords, for the Admiralty to supply that for two reasons. In the first place, because as I pointed out the other night, what we claim to have done is to have provided, in the cheapest manner possible, and most effective manner possible for the expansion of the Fleet, which, in the future, we foresee to be inevitable. I desire personally to limit, as far as possible, the extension of this particular base. It may be turned into a complete dockyard like Portsmouth. It may only be a base for men, stores, and ships, and for minor repairs, and not a manufacturing establishment in any sense. Either of these possibilities lie before the Board of Admiralty in the future. I do not wish to prejudge the matter. All I feel to be my function at the present moment is to see that instead of allowing the establishment, whatever it is, to grow in the haphazard, inconvenient, and uneconomical way, as has necessarily been the case with all the other dockyards, that this base should be planned out from the beginning, and that whatever in the future is added should fit into one harmonious scheme.

The noble Earl dealt with Rosyth from the point of view of a strategical station. I do not think I ever said that the sole object of the establishment of this base was a strategical object. What I have said, and now repeat, is this; that given that a new base was required, it became necessary to consider the strategical aspect of that base as well as the industrial and economical aspects. The present Board of Admiralty considered that Rosyth fulfilled all three requirements equally, and therefore we thought it to be the best available place. Another point on which the noble Lord touched was that of defence. He did not mean that it was the function of the Navy to defend this base, but that an obligation was added to the Military Forces to defend it. If he would carry in his mind the particular situation of St. Margaret's Hope anchorage, and of Rosyth—St. Margaret's Hope is the Spithead, and Rosyth is the Portsmouth of the new base—he will remember that it is practically inaccessible to anything in the nature of a sea attack. If once your Lordships plunged into the question of the liability of a naval base to invasion, you would be going further than I think the noble Earl meant to go to-night. I think on consideration that although the noble Earl may not revise his judgment as to the absolute necessity for this base he will admit that it is as immune from sea attack as a base can possibly be. I am sure he will admit that it fulfils the economical and industrial requirements of a base and I think if he had been at the Board of Admiralty still, he would also have admitted that it had a strategical value of no little importance.

Standing Order No. 39 having been suspended, Bill read 3ª and passed.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Title agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER moved to omit the provision which empowered local authorities in making by-laws to have special regard to the desirablity of preventing the employment of girls under sixteen years of age in streets or public places. He said that there was one alteration which he should like to ask their Lordships to consent to on this clause, though he should have preferred them to have done so upon Clause 3. He understood, however, that the order of the Bill made it necessary to raise the question now, and in the form of moving to omit the second provision at the end of the second clause. He need hardly say that the provision was one with which he was in entire sympathy so far as it went, but his objection to it was that he would wish it to go a great deal further. The object of his Amendment was, that when they came to Clause 3, they might add to the statutory prohibitions there made, one more which would prohibit generally the employment of girls under sixteen in streets or public places. He understood that if they left the *proviso* at the end of the second clause as it now stood, they would foreclose the question he desired to raise, for the House would have then decided, and the Bill would then provide, that it should be open to municipalities and local authorities to deal with this question as they pleased. Therefore, they could not raise the question of prohibition again on the third clause, and his only course was to move to omit the second provision at the end of Clause 2. It was not, he hoped, improper for him to express a word of complaint such as had not been heard for the first time in this House, at the stage and the condition of things under which this Bill reached them. The Bill got out of the Standing Committee in the House of Commons at the beginning of May, and he could not help thinking that it was really deplorable that a Bill of this character should have been delayed in the House of Commons so long a time before it reached their Lordships' House. He said this because it seemed to him that it should belong to the reputation of this House that they should have a voice in matters of this particular kind, which so nearly affected the practical welfare of large classes of the community, and also because this particular case seemed to be one in which their Lordships' House might very well have said its say. For what he desired to submit to their Lordships was approved in even a stronger form by the Grand Committee of the House of Commons, and it went back to the other House containing the complete prohibition which he should like now to see inserted. The Government, through the Home Secretary, threw its weight in the House of Commons the other way.

LORD BELPER: They also did so in the Grand Committee.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER admitted that was so, but not having succeeded there they threw it out in the House of Commons. The result was to fall back upon what, with all respect, he thought he must call these rather feeble words in the second proviso. That proviso expressed what might be called a pious hope that the local authorities would prevent the employment of girls under 16 in streets or public places. As his proposed Amendment was drawn it would revert towards what was approved by the Grand Committee, but it modified the decision of the Grand Committee in order to meet the gravest kind of objection to it. The object which they had before them was to make impossible the employment of girls upon the streets and in public places in those divers casual occupations by which they were led to so much evil. It was answered "that it might be excellent and perfectly necessary," and when they quoted, as they were able to quote, some of the highest official witnesses and some of the great public bodies in great cities, it was replied "that that was all very well, but they had to consider the country at large, and the different state of things in country districts." They were also told that they must not impose any general prohibition which would do well in one class of place but badly in others. It was to meet that objection that the last words of his Amendment which he should press on Clause 3 were framed. He should propose on that Clause to move:—

> "That a girl under the age of 16 years shall not be employed in street trading, except under the provisions of a specific by-law of the local authority sanctioning the same for the disposal of agricultural produce, being produced by girls between the ages of 14 and 16."

He thought he had made clear what he desired, and would briefly justify it. The employment of young girls under 16 in street trading in towns was an evil which it was almost impossible to over estimate. Instead of arguing that, one might quote from results. Figures were taken not long ago in Birmingham as to the character of these children, and it was found that about two-thirds out of a total of a little over 700 had within, he thought the previous year, been under sentence for offences of some kind. Their Lordships would know what that implied as to the practices the children were allowed to engage in. If they employed girls between 14 and 16 in irregular ways, running about the town at late hours of the evening, and so on, they would unfit them at the age when they ought to be settling down to regular employment. If, on the other hand, they could keep them out of such things up to the age of 16, girls would then probably get into regular emyloyment, and by the time they reached the age of 16 they would have no desire to run about the streets.

Casual labour was always demoralising to any class, but could there be any class to which it would be more so than to children, and especially young girls. It was said that it was very hard on the poor costermonger that he or she could not have their girl to help them. It was replied on behalf of those who knew pretty well the habits of costermongers that they themselves had no desire to do this, and that they did not take their children out in this way. Then it was argued:—"If you do not let them work in this way they probably will not be able to get any other kind of work," and it was suggested that worse moral results would follow, because they would have to add to the family earnings somehow. Was that really a true reply? He believed on the other hand that there was a very strong demand for girl labour between those ages of fourteen and sixteen in restaurants, cafés, and so on, as well as in factories. It was often impossible to get the number of girls to undertake the amount of work that was required, for that particular market was not fully stocked. He believed it was argued that, although it was true that girls were competent workpeople, there were the weak and poorly ones who were not fit for steady labour, and for whom they ought to leave this clause as a safety valve. His own strong impression was that this was one of those many cases out of where they were asked to abstain from doing a great good, and protecting a large class for the sake of a minority with whom they ought to deal in some other way, and for whom they ought to make other special provision. Of course, when anyone proposed a Motion of this kind, which was of a general character, and intended to make prohibitions by statute, the answer was always ready, namely—that they need not trouble about them, because the Bill was giving large powers to municipal authorities, who could make any by-laws they thought just, in a way perfectly applicable to certain circumstances, and that while a general prohibition might do some good, it would also do some evil. Possibly they could trust their principal local authorities in the great cities, where the authority was generally of the best type. There was a great deal of evidence to show that, in the big towns, the men who cared most about the public welfare were strongly and keenly in favour of by-laws of that kind. But in putting forward that argument it was forgotten that there were a number of smaller authorities on whom they could depend much less, and he could not but think that in cases of that kind, where so much was at stake for the weaker part of the people, it behoved Parliament to follow the lead of the better municipalities and bring the backward ones up to the mark. They had not now got such a House as they had a few minutes ago. He was afraid that the interests of the unrepresented children were not as powerful in the House as the rights of a certain class in another country. But their rights could, he believed, appeal very strongly to some of their Lordships. And unless they adopted some general prohibition they would not prevent those street disorders, and especially that kind of ruin to which young girls were exposed. He believed, therefore, that such a prohibition as he asked the House to impose would be for the benefit of the bodies and souls of their young citizens, and he asked the House to look carefully into the matter and drop the *proviso* at the end of the second clause with the object of inserting an Amendment in Clause 3.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 7, to leave out the words '(2) the local authority in making by-laws under this section shall have special regard to the desirability of preventing the employment of girls under sixteen in streets or public places.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Rochester.*)

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY hoped the House would listen with favour to the arguments adduced by his right rev. Brother. He was not himself prepared to argue in favour of the precise clause which the Bishop of Rochester wished to substitute. He wished to make it not so specific in one particular as the Bishop desired to do, and he should propose, if this sub-clause were left out and an opportunity were given of their moving the other, to make the words a little more general by saying that "No girl under the age of sixteen years shall be employed in street trading except under the provisions of a specific by-law of the local authority sanctioning such employment." This Amendment would be more businesslike and in better convenance with the position which Parliament ought to take, while it would still leave to the local authority the responsibility of sanctioning the trading for local and specific reasons. He hoped the House would consent to leave out the sub-clause with a view to inserting words of that kind. When the matter was before the House of Commons he looked into it with a great deal of care. It was so long ago as March that this Bill passed the Second Reading in the House of Commons and it actually left the Standing Committee in the House of Commons early in May. It was very hard upon those of their Lordships who desired to deal with matters of this kind that after such delay they should now be told that it was impossible, owing to the approaching prorogation, to debate such a question, and it was in the interest of the public that the House of Lords should be allowed to give proper attention to it. He did not blame the Government, but it was none the less the fact that the Bill had been read a second time at one o'clock in the morning, when discussion was absolutely impossible. That was not the way in which a subject of this importance should come before the House, which was specially competent to deal with the matter.

When the question was before the House of Commons so many months ago, he had made private enquiries of his own, and had studied with care the evidence of the various officials, who could speak from daily experience of what was needed in the large towns. He was surprised to find how marked was the unanimity on the part of those from whom they might expect an authoritative opinion on this matter, as to the advantage which would accrue if it were definitely enacted that young girls should not be employed in the streets for trading purposes. The chairmen of School Boards and the best known and most trusted officers of philanthropic societies spoke in favour of such an enactment. This might perhaps have been anticipated, but let anybody look at what had been said by superintendents of police in large towns on this question. Let anybody look at the expressions of opinion by magistrates who had had to deal with the management of public morals in those places, and see what they felt upon this subject, and then let them recognise the responsibility the members of the House of Lords would incur if they were to refuse to take away from the local authorities the temptation to look casually into this matter and let it alone. He ventured to hope that, if the House, with the sanction of the Government, omitted this particular sub-clause, and allowed the clause he proposed to be added afterwards, the Bishop of Rochester would not be unwilling to accept the modification he had suggested. His own Amendment did not single out any particular form of street trading, such as trading in farm produce, so as to give it an invidious or special advantage over all the other forms of street trading. He should like to urge upon those who had not considered this matter, the real importance that attached to it, and, if there were time, to look into the evidence which was in their hands before they refused to give effect to what he believed to be the wish of those who had at heart the highest good of the community. The House ought, he thought, to have particular regard to a class which was not represented in Parliament, and which might throw itself with some confidence upon the decision which would be given in this House. He earnestly asked the House to agree to the Amendment.

*THE EARL OF MEATH said that an apology was due from him to the right rev. Prelate and the most rev. Primate for venturing to express an opinion which was not in accordance with their views on this matter. No one could sympathise more than he did with the objects the right rev. Prelate had in view, but he was afraid in this particular instance he could not, as he had done on other social questions, support him. There could be no doubt whatever, if it could be done without suffering, that girls under the age of sixteen ought not to be permitted to be upon the streets for purposes of sale and labour, but he knew that in many instances there were poor women who were compelled to send their girls to earn their living on the streets, and unless they did so, they would either starve or have to go into the workhouse. In this case they were acting not without some knowledge because they had before them the example of Liverpool, where street trading had been regulated. It had been found there that, by the regulations which were put into force, a great deal of the evil which followed from the employment of girls in the streets was avoided. He thought the Government had been wise in so drawing up this Bill that it should not be made impossible that in the case of a poor widow who was sick and unable to work herself, and who had only one girl, that that girl should be enabled to earn money sufficient to maintain herself and her mother. Otherwise, it meant that they would go into the workhouse. It was with very great reluctance that he found himself unable to agree with the right rev. Prelate on this occasion.

*EARL SPENCER: I do not agree with my noble friend on the Cross Benches in the view he has taken of the proposals made by the right rev. Prelate. I have great sympathy with what he says as to certain poor people who require to get assistance to gain their daily bread, but I feel it is a very serious matter to leave this question in the position in which it is. We have heard, and I have no doubt that it is perfectly correct, for it was stated by the Lord Bishop of Rochester, and confirmed by the most rev. Primate that serious consequences have been proved to have followed the employment of these girls in selling in the streets. What the right rev. Prelate has proposed is not altogether to prevent this, but it is to strengthen the advice given by the Imperial Parliament to the local authorities. The local authorities will certainly be put under greater pressure if the Amendment of the right rev. Prelate is adopted than if the clause stands as it is proposed by the Government. I feel, therefore, if it came to a division that I should support it. I would press on the Government very much that they should consider if they cannot accept the proposal of the Lord Bishop of Rochester with the Amendment as proposed by the most rev. Primate. I think the most rev. Primate's Amendment is better, because it is impossible to satisfy one particular trade, and it is best to leave it in the general terms which the most rev. Primate proposes. If, therefore, we have to go to a division, I should certainly support the omission of this sub-clause in order to insert the Amendment as suggested.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER: May I be allowed to say that I am fully prepared to accept the Amendment suggested by the most rev. Primate.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, in the first place I should like the right rev. Prelate to understand that I, equally with him, regret the period of the session and the time when this Bill has been brought forward. I hope, however, that he will acquit me of any blame in the matter, for it would certainly have been more pleasant to me to bring forward a Bill of this kind at a time when it could be discussed and the arguments against it could have been employed here. I will only say one thing before I speak to the Amendment. The Amendment of the right rev. Prelate is, I understand, not the Amendment which he has put on the Paper, but I do not complain of that, because I think the course he has adopted, namely, that of moving the omission of Sub-section 2, is more convenient before any change is made in the Bill. May I remind the House in the first instance, as there was no discussion on this Bill on the Second Reading, of the principle of this measure. It is, that owing to the very varied circumstances of the different trades, the varying conditions in the different localities, and the varying conditions not only in which the different trades are carried on, but in which the same trades are carried on in various localities—the principle adopted in the Bill is not to make any statutory prohibition under the Bill' but to leave it absolutely in the power of the local authorities to deal with the question of the employment of wage-earning children, in whatever way that they, having full knowledge of the whole circumstances, think best. That was the principle upon which the Bill was introduced, and the regulations which will be made by the local authorities will refer to street trading as well as to other employments. The right rev. Prelate says we have introduced into this Bill a certain statutory regulation. There are no doubt two statutory prohibitions; one is, that a child shall not be employed between the hours of nine in the evening and six in the morning. That is a prohibition that very few Members of this House will take exception to, but it was not in the Bill originally, and the clause was introduced by the Standing Committee, and remained in the Bill after it got through the House of Commons. The other statutory prohibition is one which prevents street trading being carried on by any child under the age of eleven years.

Now with regard to the proposal of the right rev. Prelate. What is the real difference that he suggests? The Bill gives power to the local authorities to prohibit absolutely all street trading within their locality. As to the cases of Liverpool and the other large towns which had been mentioned, the local authority will have power to prohibit any street trading in the municipality if they think fit to do so. The clause also gives them power to regulate the conditions under which a licence for street trading should be granted or suspended, so that the local authority will be able to prohibit those kinds of street trading which they think undesirable, and to allow, subject to conditions, those kinds of street trading to which they consider there is no objection. In fact, they have full power in the matter. The proposal of the right rev. Prelate is to prohibit all children under sixteen years of age from any kind of street trading, except the sale of farm produce by girls between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years.

*EARL SPENCER said he understood the right rev. Prelate to accept the Primate's Amendment.

LORD BELPER said he had not a copy of the Amendment, as it was not printed, but he would come to the most rev. Primate's Amendment in a moment. The proposal showed the great difficulty of making any exceptions, because if one exception was made others had to follow. What really was the case with regard to this street trading ?

*EARL SPENCER pointed out that the right rev. Prelate had given up his Amendment, and accepted that of the most rev. Primate.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER explained that just as the noble Lord rose he stated that he would accept the Amendment of the most rev. Primate in place of his own.

LORD BELPER said in that case he need not make any further remarks on that point. The reason the Government could not accept a proposal involving absolute prohibition of all street trading was this: there were girls occupied in street trading, as Lord Meath had pointed out, many of whom came from the poorest and worst educated class, and were entirely unsuited for other occupations; they would be unable to get places as domestic servants or in factories or workshops, and if they were deprived of this means of getting a livelihood there was great danger that their families would starve or suffer, or that they would be driven into making a living in the streets in a less desirable way. It had to be borne in mind that any general prohibition would apply also to girls helping their mothers to sell flowers or farm produce—cases in which the girls were under the control of their mothers and exposed to no danger whatever. Such a provision would in many cases inflict a great injustice, and therefore it seemed to the Government—and he had heard no arguments to cause them to change their view—to be safer not to enact any general statutory prohibition, but to leave it to each local authority to act according to the circumstances of their own particular case.

As to Sub-section 2, the history of that part of the Bill in the other House was that, in Standing Committee, in spite of the protest of the Government, an absolute prohibition was put in, but when it came down to the House after a very full discussion, although not without some difference of opinion, the prohibition was struck out, and the Government consented, as a concession, to put in Sub-section 2. That sub-section had been alluded to as being a feeble provision and merely a pious opinion, but he thought it really went further than that. The object of the sub-section was to strengthen the hands of the local authority if they desired to prohibit any form of street trading which they thought undesirable. The most rev. Primate's Amendment, as he understood it, would prohibit street trading in every case, unless the local authority made a by-law permitting it. He had not had an opportunity of submitting the Amendment for proper consideration, but the argument which he fancied would hold good against it was that, instead of leaving the local authority to do absolutely as they thought best under the circumstances, it would practically be saying that Parliament thought there should be a general prohibition of all street trading. That would throw upon the local authority the responsibility of making exceptions, which in many cases they would be unwilling to make if they thought Parliament had laid down a direct statutory indication in the opposite direction. That was his impression with regard to the Amendment, but he could not give a decisive answer, as the matter had not been considered by the authorities at the Home Office. If the right rev. Prelate would put the Amendment on the Paper for the Report stage he would take care that it was duly considered by the proper authorities, but at the present stage he could not accept it.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY asked whether it was understood that the passage of this clause now would not preclude the consideration of the Amendment on its merits at the Report stage.

LORD BELPER said the Amendment could be moved at a later stage in any form. Nothing done at the present stage would preclude the Amendment being brought forward subsequently.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER said that after what had fallen from the noble Lord he would not press the Amendment now.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, who had an Amendment on the Paper, said he understood his proposal was covered by the Amendment standing in the name of Lord Newton, and therefore he did not propose to move it.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clauses 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 agreed to.

Clause 13.

*THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, on behalf of Lord Newton, moved to omit the words from "profit" to "shoe-blacking." The only effect of the Amendment would be to exclude from the category of prohibited street trading the carrying of luggage and messages. It was sometimes forgotten that children, by being excluded from all kinds of street trading, were not necessarily relegated to a better or more suitable occupation. He was not at all sure that carrying messages and luggage, provided the latter was not of such a character as to do the children any injury—and that was safeguarded against by another clause in the Bill—was not a more healthy occupation for gutter children than either playing in the gutter or being knocked about at home by a drunken father or mother. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 16, to leave out from the word 'profit' to the word 'shoe-blacking.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

THE EARL OF MEATH hoped the Government would not agree to the Amendment. If there was one employment which ought to be regulated, it was that which the noble Duke proposed to omit. He failed to see why the carrying of messages and luggage should not be as much regulated as other work. The noble Duke had spoken as though the Bill was a measure for entirely preventing the employment of children in the streets. That was not the case. The Bill was not for the prevention, but for the regulation, of street trading—except so far as age was concerned; it was simply for the regulation, after a certain age, and unless better reasons were given for the exemption of this employment, he hoped the Amendment would be negatived.

LORD BELPER said the carrying of luggage and messages was an employment which, after some consideration, had been put into the definition clause as street trading. The fear had been expressed that if anybody desired his luggage carried to or from a station by a small boy, such service would be prevented, and on the whole, seeing that the local authorities had full power to make regulations concerning all these matters, the Government were prepared to accept the Amendment. The only effect of it would be that this employment was excluded from the definition of street trading, but the local authority would be able to regulate it if they thought it desirable to do so.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER: That means that this class of work will be excepted from the operation of Clause 3.

LORD BELPER: It means that it does not come under the definition of street trading.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER said he could not help feeling that the Amendment weakened the Bill.

In Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived: The Report of the Amendment to be received to-morrow.

IRELAND DEVELOPMENT GRANT BILL.

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.

[THIRD READING].

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD had given notice of the following Amendment—

"After Clause 5 to insert as a new clause: 'Subject to rules of Court service of an ordinary summons shall be effected by delivering the same to the defendant personally; provided that in any case where it appears that for sufficient cause personal service cannot be effected, leave may be given to serve the summons in such other way and by such persons as may be prescribed.'"

THE LORD CHANCELLOR stated that he had been in communication with Lord James as to his Amendments on the subject of personal service. The Government had determined to appoint a Committee to inquire and advise as to any amendment of the law and procedure relating to personal service of County Court process, so as, on the one hand, to put an end to the charges of injustice and oppression which were alleged to arise, and, on the other hand, to prevent unreasonable expense. An amending Act would be necessary next session in order to make provision, without which the present Bill would be unworkable, and the subject of Lord James's Amendment would be brought before Parliament for discussion in that way.

Bill read 3ª (according to order), with the Amendments: Further Amendment (Privilege) made: Bill passed and returned to the Commons.

MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL [H.L.]

A Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1900, was presented by the Lord Wolverton; read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 210.)

House adjourned at half-past Eleven o'clock, till To-morrow, Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 10th August, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Dover Corporation Bill; Hainault Forest Bill; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Bangor Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [Lords] (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Mid-Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

North Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation.—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Burgh of Auchterarder, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Burgh of Auchterarder," presented accordingly; and ordered to be considered to-morrow.

PETITIONS.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Kensington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MOTOR-CARS BILL [LORDS.]

Petition from Chiswick, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Kettering, and Enfield Highway; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Copy presented, of Statistics of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COAL SUPPLIES (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of First Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of the Coal Resources of the United Kingdom. Vol. I., Report. Vol. II., Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. Vol. III., Supplement [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ADVERTISEMENTS (FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 9th March; *Mr. Bryce*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 323.]

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Report for the year 1903 by Sir Henry Craik, K.C.B. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.

Copy presented, of Order of the Local Government Board for Scotland constituting the Local Authority of the Burgh of Glasgow, the Port Local Authority of the Port of Glasgow [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (UNITED KINGDOM).

Copy presented, of Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1888 to 1902, Fiftieth Number [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL STATISTICS.

Copy presented, of Statistical Tables relating to the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom. Part XXVI. for the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (COLONIES).

Copy presented, of Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1888 to 1902, Fortieth Number [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRAMWAYS AND LIGHT RAILWAYS (STREET AND ROAD).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th July; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 324.]

HARBOUR AUTHORITIES.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th August, 1901; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 325.]

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1902.

Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to the proposed publication of the Report of the Proceedings of the Colonial Conference in London in 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the months of March and April, 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of licence granted to Michael Connell, a convict, permitting him to be at large, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of the Penal Servitude Act, 1864 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 595 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3056 and 3057 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE BILL.

Copy ordered, "of Memorandum explanatory of the provisions of the Penal

Servitude Bill."—(*Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 326.]

ASSESSMENTS (COUNTIES, CITIES, AND BURGHS) (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "showing the total amounts of assessments collected by County Councils and by councils of cities and burghs in Scotland for the year ended the 15th day of May, 1902, with the total cost of collection, and the cost of collection per cent., of assessments in each county, city, and burgh."—(*Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Public Works Loan Commissioners and Volunteer Corps.

MR. MELLOR (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that the Public Works Loan Commissioners decline to give any particulars of the fees charged by them to Volunteer corps in respect of loans for the purpose of acquiring drill halls or other premises for the use of the corps; and that in a recent case of the headquarters at Reading of the 1st Volunteer Battalion Berkshire Regiment their fees amounted to £14 3s. 6d. on a loan of £2,017; and, if so, whether he will make representations to the Commissioners in the interest of the Volunteer forces.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) I have made inquiries into the right hon. Gentleman's complaint concerning the fees charged by the Public Works Loan Commissioners in respect of the loans referred to in the Question. Under the provisions of the Public Works Loans Act of 1875, and the regulations made thereunder, fees are chargeable in respect of all loans made by the Board. I gather that the fees, payable in respect of transactions of the kind mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman, are fixed by the Commissioners according to the amount of the loan and the legal work and correspondence involved; such fees never exceeding, and frequently being considerably below, the fees on rate-secured loans. I am informed that neither the Act nor the regulations require the Commissioners to give particulars as to how their fees are arrived at, and that in practice they always decline to furnish the information.

Preferential Tariffs—Import of Wool into Canada.

MR. DUNCAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Otley): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can say whether merino wool is admitted free into Canada, irrespective of its source of origin; and if wool that competes with Canadian wool, coming from Australasia, is entitled to the preferential tariff granted to similar wools coming from Great Britain.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) As regards the first part of the Question, if, as I presume is the case, merino wool is not produced in Canada, it is admitted free, if not futher manufactured than being washed. Australasia is not entitled to the preferential tariff.

First Imposition and Yield of Duty on Cocoa Butter.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will say when the duty on cocoa butter was first imposed, and what has been its total yield to 31st July, 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The duty on imported cocoa butter was first imposed on the 7th August, 1896, and yielded, from that date to the 31st ultimo, £20,877.

Experiments on Living Animals for Purposes of Justice.

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a Judge of the High Court has in any, and, if so, in what case or cases, exercised the power conferred on him by Section 12 of the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, by ordering experiments to be made on living animals for the purposes of justice in a criminal case.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The only case of this nature of which I have any record is one in which a

Scotch Judge made an order in 1883 with the view of ascertaining the nature of a poison alleged to have been dispensed by mistake.

Publication of Redistribution Maps.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when it may be expected that the redistribution maps which were ordered in an early part of the session, and are understood to be in preparation by the Ordnance Survey Department, will be distributed to the Members of this House, in order to provide material for Members, as invited by the Prime Minister, to prepare and suggest a definite plan of redistribution; and whether he will state the cause of the delay, and if the delay extends beyond the next registration period, whether he will have the figures of the electorates which are to be shown on the maps brought down to date.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I am informed by the printers that the maps will be ready for distribution in the course of a few days. In view of the nature of the work involved in preparing them, I do not think there can be said to have been any delay in the matter.

Land in rear of Natural History Museum.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): To ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he can state what is being done with the land at the back of the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, lying between Exhibition Road and Queen's Gate; how long the sheds and huts now on it are to remain; and if the ground can be preserved as an open space.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The land above named is being temporarily used, principally for the accommodation of the several branches of the Board of Education, and will be required for that purpose for some time to come, probably not less than five years. The sheds and huts will therefore have to remain on the land for that time. In all probability the ground will not be available for preservation as an open space, as constant demands are made for additional accommodation for art and science requirements.

Mail Contracts—Obligations during War.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can state whether existing postal contracts bind steamship companies concerned to continue the mail service under all circumstances, war included, during the term contracted for; and, if not, whether a state of war would terminate the obligation of the companies to perform the mail service contracted for.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) It would be obviously impossible to make contracts which would, in terms, bind packet companies to continue their services "under all circumstances, war included." On the other hand, no stipulations are introduced with the view of releasing contractors on the outbreak of war. A state of war might or might not affect the performance of any individual contract, but would not necessarily terminate it.

Telegraph Messengers at Edinburgh and Dundee—Payment for Sunday Work.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Posmaster-General whether he is aware that the adult night telegraph messengers employed at Edinburgh and Dundee are not paid for Sunday duty; and whether he can arrange to have the alleged grievance redressed.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The weekly wages of the adult night telegraph messengers at Edinburgh and Dundee include payment for Sunday duty.

Miscarriage of Letter Containing Postal Order.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state what efforts have been made for the recovery of a letter containing a postal order for twenty shillings, posted at West Calder on 13th June last and addressed to Mr. James Wylie, 27, City Street, Belfast.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The missing letter referred to by the hon. Member appears to have been posted on the 13th January last, not on the 13th June as stated in the Question. Inquiry has been made at each of the post offices through which the letter would pass, and also at the returned letter offices at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, and Belfast, but no trace of the letter can be found. I understand that the sender of the letter is the sub-postmaster of West Calder, and that he did not keep any record of the number of the postal order, and cannot say whether he filled in the name of the payee, but that in any case he did not fill in the name of the paying office. The postal orders for twenty shillings issued at West Calder on the 13th January have all been paid, but on examination none of them can at present be identified as that stated to have been enclosed in the missing letter. I propose, however, to make further inquiry into the matter.

Trunk Telephonic Communication in the South of Ireland.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork Co., E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a resolution has been recently adopted by the Cork Industrial Development Association directing attention to the fact that the want of trunk telephonic communication in the south of Ireland is seriously hindering Irish trade; and, if so, whether he will take steps to place Ireland upon an equality with England in the matter of telephonic com munication.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have received from the hon. Member and from the Cork Industrial Development Association copies of the resolution referred to in his Question, and I shall be glad to consider any requests for the extension of the trunk telephone system in Ireland on the same conditions as are applicable to such extensions in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Demands of Indian Government on Dalai-Lama of Lhassa—Action of Foreign Office.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what part, if any, has the Foreign Office, through its representative at Peking, taken in urging the Chinese Government to put pressure on the Tibetan authorities in support of the demands which the Indian Government is making on the Dalai-Lama of Lhassa.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The attention of the hon. Member has, no doubt, been called to the answer of the Secretary of State for India on the 6th instant.† The Chinese Government were informed in May by his Majesty's *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking that the Viceroy of India would appoint Commissioners to meet the Chinese and Tibetan representatives at Khambajong for the settlement of pending questions. No other communications have passed at Peking on the subject of the negotiations.

Retirement of Mr. Consul Longford.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has inquired into the retirement of Mr. Consul Longford, and whether that gentleman can be reinstated in the Consular Service at some suitable post.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The Japan Service is entirely distinct from the General Consular Service, and Mr. Longford had no reason to expect a post outside Japan. When, however, he was unwilling to return to Japan he was offered Manilla, but declined to go there. It remained open to him to return to Nagasaki or to retire, and he chose the latter alternative.

Relations between Tibet, China and India.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state what is the present position of affairs as regards the progress of the Commission arranged for by the Indian Government to proceed into Tibet to enter into certain negotiations with Chinese and Tibetan authorities; what are the terms that these Indian Commissioners are to demand from the Tibetan Government, and can the copy of the instructions under which our Commissioners are acting be laid upon the Table before Parliament rises; what is the extent of the military escort now stationed at Tangu; is that force intended to proceed into Tibetan territory in support of those Commissioners; and under what circumstances would such invasion of foreign territory be entered upon.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I have nothing to add to the long statement which I made on the subject on the 6th instant, in reply to a Question by the hon. Member for West Denbighshire.†

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† See page 131.

† See page 131.

Capital for Indian Railways subscribed in this Country.

MR. KIMBER: To ask the Secretary of State for India what is the amount of British capital subscribed in this country at 3 per cent. and other low rates, and employed by the Secretary of State as capital in India for railways which yield rates of interest or dividends exceeding the borrowing rate, and amounting in some cases to upwards of 6 per cent.; what is the total amount of the dividends and interest earned over and above the 3 per cent. or other rate which the money costs in this country, and is it credited to the Indian or to the British exchequer; and will he say if it is more or less than any increase of cost of British soldiers in India, apart from the security and peace given to India by the presence of a British Army.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The capital raised in this country for Indian railways has been subscribed at various rates, through various agencies, and under a great variety of conditions. In many cases the capital for a line has been provided partly in this country and partly in India in rupees. I am therefore unable to answer my hon. friend's Question in its present form; but information as to the net revenue derived by the Indian Government from railways will be found on page 22 of the Explanatory Memorandum recently presented to Parliament. It will be seen that it amounted to £846,616 in 1901–2, and to £160,600 in 1902-3 (revised estimate), and that in the Budget for 1903–4 it is estimated at £40,900.

Education Rates in Wales—Fixing of "Appointed Day."

MR. GEORGE KENYON (Denbigh): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that most of the County Councils in Wales have provisionally adopted 30th September as the day to bring the Education Act into operation, and have levied an increased rate in view of the expenses which will devolve upon the Councils from that date, and that it is now in contemplation to defer the date; and if so, will he make inquiries as to the necessity of any longer delay in the matter.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The 30th September was fixed by the Board of Education as the appointed day for most County Councils who did not desire to bring the Education Act into operation before that date, provisionally on no difficulty arising which should necessitate a postponement. County Councils desirous of postponing an appointed day once fixed will necessarily state their reasons for requesting a postponement.

German Official Export Returns—Basis of Calculation.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the values of German exports in German official tables are based upon the conventional prices of the articles exported, determined by a board of expert valuers in the pay of the German Government; and, if so, whether the values so determined are based upon the prices actually paid to the exporter by the foreign purchaser or upon the prices charged for similar articles in the home market to the German consumers.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) Yes, Sir. The values of the German exports are determined annually by an official valuation commission, and they are stated to represent the values paid by the foreign buyers to the German sellers at the place of production of the goods plus freight or other charges up to the German frontier.

Social Condition of the Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the Government have withdrawn the Congested Districts (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill, will the Secretary for Scotland state how and when he proposes to deal with the recommendations contained in the Report on the social condition of the Island of Lewis.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The Secretary for Scotland greatly regrets the necessity for withdrawing the Bill, and it will undoubtedly hamper him seriously in his efforts to improve the condition of matters in the Island of Lewis. Until the Secretary for Scotland receives the Report to which reference was made in reply to the Question of the hon. Member on 29th July† he cannot form an opinion as to what he will be able to do, and what it will be impossible for him to manage.

Causeway over the Ayre, Longhope.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Lord Advocate if he will state the estimated cost of the causeway over the Ayre, Longhope, submitted on behalf of the district committee to the Congested Districts Board at the time the construction of the Longhope Pier was sanctioned; if any plans were submitted to the Board, and if the work is being carried out in accordance with same; and if any provision is made for a boat slip for the convenience of fishermen requiring to cross the causeway.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) (1) The estimated cost of this causeway was stated in 1899 to be £800. (2) It was part of the bargain when the grant for Longhope Pier was sanctioned, that the causeway was to be made by local effort, and no grant for the causeway has been made. (3) Plans were submitted by the county surveyor. (4) No suggestion that a boat slip is required seems to have been made so far as the Secretary for Scotland is informed.

Regulations as to Importation of Dogs.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the hon. Member for North Hunts, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he has considered the representations of Mr. Sewell, the veterinary surgeon employed by the Board for the isolation of imported dogs, that dogs might without risk be detained at their owners' homes, if subject to regular examination by a qualified veterinary surgeon during a period of three months; whether he is aware that the present regulations have imposed and are imposing inconvenience and pecuniary loss on many invalid persons who have been accustomed to take pet dogs abroad; and whether the Board will withdraw both the present and the former regulations and make a new order on the lines suggested by Mr. Sewell, with a view of lessening the motives for smuggling dogs, and of greatly increasing the penalties for any infraction of such order, and thus of minimising the risk of introducing rabies.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) We have only been made aware, very generally, of the nature of Mr. Sewell's suggestions to which the hon. Member refers. If he will submit them to us in writing and in more detailed form, my noble friend will be glad to give them careful consideration.

Grievances of Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland when it is intended to introduce legislation dealing with the recommendations of the Commission which sat to inquire into the grievances of the Royal Irish Constabulary as to pay and pension.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Effect has been given to such of the recommendations of the Committee as do not involve legislation. I cannot fix a date for the introduction of the latter.

Payment of Teaching Fees at Corryglass West Evening School.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why the fees accruing for the teaching of the Corryglass West Evening School, District 13, Roll No. 3,793, have not yet been paid.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Commissioners of National Education state that the inspector's report on this school is of a most unsatisfactory character, and that he declines to recommend any grant of fees. He describes the reading, composition, and arithmetic as "bad," and writing and spelling as only "middling." These are the only subjects taught. As the work done in the school is worthless, no fees will be paid, and the school will be removed from the list of evening schools.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxvi., 687.

Refusals of Irish Local Government Board to sanction Increase of Salary to Dispensary Doctors.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland why the Local Government Board have refused in several instances recently, to sanction an increase of salary granted to dispensary doctors by boards of guardians.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Every application for an increase of salary receives the careful consideration of the Local Government Board, and in any case in which the Board refuses to sanction an increase the reasons are fully communicated to the board of guardians concerned. If the hon. Member will give a reference to the particular case in which he is interested, the reasons upon which the Board's decision was based will be ascertained.

Royal Visit to Ireland—Holiday for Bank Officials in Country Districts.

DR. THOMPSON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can explain why a bank holiday was denied to the bank officials in Irish country districts during the recent visit of His Majesty to Ireland, while it was granted in the cities the King visited.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The days on which the King visited the cities referred to were observed as a bank holiday for the convenience of banking business in these cities. The same consideration did not apply to the business of banks elsewhere.

Contracts for Supply of Army in Egypt.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether contracts have been entered into for the supply of the army of occupation in Egypt for a longer period than the six months prescribed in the regulations of the 23rd June of this year; and, if so, will he state the circumstances under which such contracts have been concluded, and if tenders were invited from all those firms who are usually in competition for Government orders at Cairo.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The points raised in the Question cannot be answered without reference to the general officer commanding the troops in Egypt. A letter has accordingly been despatched, asking for the necessary information.

Future Operations in Somaliland.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the communications received from General Egerton have yet enabled the War Office to arrive at a decision as to the future operations to be undertaken in Somaliland; and whether he can undertake to communicate the decision of the Government to the House before the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The communications received from General Egerton have not yet enabled the Government to arrive at a decision concerning future operations in Somaliland; further communications are awaited. I am not therefore in a position to reply to the second part of the Question.

Length of Training of Militia.

DR. THOMPSON: To ask the Secretary of State for War, if, considering the fact that five days are at present extracted from the twenty-seven days training of the Militia by the included Sundays and the date of arrival and dismissal after training of the men, he will next year increase the length of training to forty-two days, as recommended by the late Royal Commission.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) It would be premature to discuss such a Question until the Royal Commission now sitting has reported.

Report on Barrack work of Royal Engineers.

MR. MCKENNA: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Committee appointed to inquire into the barrack work of the Royal Engineers has presented a Report; if so, whether that Report will be laid upon the Table; and whether any action has been taken on it.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The inquiry was a departmental inquiry and it has not been decided to publish the Report. The recommendations have been very carefully considered, and action is being taken upon it.

Exports to the Colonies—Increases due to Wars.

MR. WHITLEY THOMSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state, for the years 1900, 1901, and 1902, what are the amounts of increases in the exports to the colonies, due to wars in South Africa, Nigeria, and elsewhere, specifying the amounts of the increase to each colony.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) I cannot undertake to say to what extent the increases in the exports to the colonies are due to the wars in South Africa, Nigeria, and elsewhere; but it may interest the hon. Member to know that the value of the exports of the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom to the South and West African Colonies respectively for the last five years have been as under:—South Africa, 1898, £12,199,810; 1899, £11,370,125; 1900, £12,757,875; 1901, £17,154,380; 1902, £24,436,739. West Africa, 1898, £1,999,445; 1899, £2,116,080; 1900, £2,148,149; 1901, £2,347,319; 1902, £2,737,486.

Medical and Veterinary Officers with the Northern Nigeria Force.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will state how many medical officers and veterinary surgeons were serving with the Northern Nigeria Force during the month of June last; and what were the total casualties of that force in action in the months of April, May, and June.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) The establishment of the medical department in Northern Nigeria whose duties include attendance on both the military and the civil officials, contains twenty-seven medical officers, of whom, owing to the absence of the remainder on leave, about eighteen are usually in the protectorate. The Kano-Sokoto expeditionary force was formally broken up in March, and the small body of troops which has since been in the field has been engaged in the pursuit of the ex-Sultan of Sokoto. I have no information as to the number of medical officers or veterinary surgeons attached to this small force. In answer to the second part of the Question, the casualties in action during April, May, and June, were three British officers slightly wounded; one British non-commissioned officer severely wounded; four native rank and file killed, four severely wounded, and seventy-seven slightly wounded. These include an engagement, the date of which is not precisely known, and may have been early in July.

Sugar Convention—Number of White Population of West Indies who will benefit.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, will he state the approximate number of white British subjects in the West Indies whom His Majesty's Government anticipate will benefit under the Sugar Convention; and whether he has any particulars of the mortgages on the estates of the sugar planters and the number of absentee landlords.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) I have not the information necessary to answer the hon. Member's Question. In some of the West Indian Colonies no regular census was taken in 1901, owing to inability to bear the cost, and reference to cases in which a census was taken shows that as a rule no enumeration is made by colour. I may add that the Sugar Convention is intended to benefit the coloured British subjects in the West Indies, who form the overwhelming majority of the population, quite as much as the white. I have no particulars of mortgages on sugar estates or of absentee landlords.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Recovery of Boer Bibles.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state how many Bibles that were looted from Boer farms by British or Colonial troops during the late war have been received and restored to their owners in response to Lord Roberts's Memorandum on the subject.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Lord Roberts has taken this matter up privately—not officially. I am not aware of the results.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether, in order to induce the restoration of Bibles looted from Boer farms in response to Lord Roberts's Memorandum on the subject, he can promise that persons voluntarily giving up the same will not be prosecuted for receiving stolen goods, knowing the same to have been stolen.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I think the hon. Gentleman may dismiss from his mind any apprehension that any promise of the kind will be necessary.

Somaliland—Ammunition.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the nature of the ammunition with greater stopping power which has been sent to Somaliland; and whether he will give directions that any hon. Member who applies shall be supplied with specimens of the ammunition.

* MR. BRODRICK: The ammunition sent to Somaliland is Mark V. I am afraid that I cannot agree to supply specimens as suggested, but I will have a sample bullet sent to the tea-room.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): Does "stopping power" mean "killing power"?

[No answer was returned.]

"Blessing the Colours"—Roman Catholic Ecclesiastics.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War under what conditions or regulations are Roman Catholic ecclesiastics invited to bless military flags; is this invitation extended in the case of the presentation of all new colours to Roman Catholic ecclesiastics; if not, is it extended in all cases to Protestant clergymen; are there any cases in which Protestant clergymen are invited, in which Roman Catholic clergymen are not invited; in how many cases in the last ten years have Protestant clergymen been asked to bless colours when Roman Catholics were not invited, and in how many were Roman Catholics invited to participate with Protestant clergymen; were Roman Catholic clergymen ever asked to officiate without the attendance of Protestant clergymen; under what circumstances was the Bishop of Cork asked to bless colours along with a Protestant clergyman on the occasion of His Majesty's visit to Cork, when an Irish regiment, mainly Roman Catholic, was presented with regimental colours by the King; and would the War Office, before issuing such invitations, endeavour to ascertain the conditions upon which alone Roman Catholic ecclesiastics can officiate on such ceremonies.

*MR. BRODRICK: The arrangements for the consecration of regimental colours are in the hands of the general officer commanding and the officer commanding the regiment. Where the regiment is an Irish one, the representative of the Roman Catholic Church is usually invited by the commanding officer to take the consecration, the Anglican chaplain taking a share in the ceremony by agreement, as representative of the Protestants in the regiment. The statistics for which the hon. Member asks could not be obtained without considerable trouble. As regards the particular case mentioned, the Bishop of Cork offered personally to perform the ceremony, but at the last moment, realising that the ceremony was to be mixed, declined to take part and refused to allow any of his priests to officiate. In the case of the Irish Guards the Roman Catholic priest performed the dedication and then withdrew; and subsequently the Chaplain-General performed his part of the ceremony.

MR. T. M. HEALY: What is a "mixed consecration"?

* MR. BRODRICK: A mixed consecration is one at which the representatives of both Churches attend, and the representative of the Roman Catholic Church takes one part of the ceremony and the representative of the Protestant Church the other.

Imperial Irish Yeomanry.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state by whom and under what warrant or authority a body of Yeomanry, called Imperial Irish Yeomanry, have been raised in County Limerick, where this body is training, and who is in command; and whether the person enlisting for this corps receives a capitation grant; and, if so, how much.

*MR. BRODRICK: This body is being raised under the Militia Act, 1882, and the Militia and Yeomanry Act, 1902, by its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Waterford. The regiment is being trained at the Curragh. The usual capitation grant of £3 will be granted to the regiment for efficients.

Government Contractors—Underwood and Son.

SIR CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Messrs. Underwood and Son, hay dealers, were struck off the list of contractors to the War Office; that they subsequently tendered through the firm of Bennett and Son, and that they have since contracted through the firm of Prentis, of Great Tower Street, for compressed fodder, the last lot of 200 tons of which was condemned; and, if so, will he say what the War Office propose to do in the matter.

MR. BRODRICK: When the contract was made there was no reason whatever for supposing that Mr. Prentis had any connection with Messrs. Underwood. The fodder referred to has been sold and the difference between its cost to the public and the amount realised by its sale will be recovered from the contractor. Mr. Prentis will be removed from the list.

Savings Banks Bill.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is intended to proceed with the Savings Banks Bill referred to in His Majesty's Speech at the opening of Parliament.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): No, Sir, it has not been found possible to proceed with this Bill.

Holloway Prison.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, seeing that the original intention was that the prison at Holloway should merely be used as a house of detention, and having regard to his promises in the matter and to the character of the neighbourhood, he has been able to arrange that no further death sentences shall be carried out there.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I have, as, promised, considered this matter very carefully in all its aspects. The only other promise I have made on the subject was to the effect that, unless means were found by which the death sentence could be carried out at Holloway Prison in such a manner that no part of the proceedings could be seen from anywhere outside, executions would not be continued at that prison. As I stated the other day, I believe such means can be found; and I am not prepared to alter the arrangement by which in London the death sentences on women (which are, I am happy to say, few) will be carried out at Holloway Prison.

Workmen's Trains on the South-Eastern and Chatham Railway.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies are not carrying out the obligations imposed upon them by the Act of 1899 to run an efficient service of trains; that there are several stations within the twenty miles radius at which no workmen's tickets are issued, and that persons holding workmen's tickets are not allowed to return from Ludgate Hill station; and, if so, will he state what steps he proposes to take against these companies for non-compliance with the Act of Parliament.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Representations in this matter have been made to the Board of Trade, who have communicated thereon with the Managing Committee of the Railway

Companies. The Committee take the view that there is no reasonable necessity for the issue of workmen's tickets at those stations (within a radius of twenty miles) at which they are not already issued. Whether the Committee are right in contending that a sufficient service, as prescribed by the special Act of 1899, is already supplied, would be for inquiry in the manner provided by Section 32 of that Act. If representations of the nature there prescribed are made to the Board, I will cause a hearing to be held. As regards Ludgate Hill station, the Companies state that great complaint was formerly made of the overcrowding on the small platforms at this station, involving danger to the crowds collected there, and they suggest that it is in the interests of all concerned that the present arrangement whereby holders of workmen's return tickets are required to travel from neighbouring stations, instead of from Ludgate Hill, should remain undisturbed. This contention appears *primâ facie* reasonable.

Belgian Sugar Legislation.

Mr. LOUGH: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the Bill which has been introduced into the Belgian Parliament with reference to sugar and sugar products under the Convention, and, if so, will he state whether the rates on the import of confectionery from this country have been fixed in accordance with Article III.; and, if not, does the Government propose to take any steps in the matter.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have seen the Bill referred to by the hon. Member. The point as to whether the measure is in accord with the Convention is one for the consideration of the Permanent Commission.

Trade Statistics.

Sir CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrewshire, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the fact that the Royal Commission on Trade Depression reported in 1886 that the declared value of imports and exports in 1873 and 1883 compared with the computed values (on the assumption that the values of the whole trade are affected by differences in prices as are the values of enumerated articles) were as follows, viz., in the year 1873 actual values £626,000,000, and in the year 1883 actual values £667,000,000, values computed at prices of 1873, £861,000,000, he could give figures on the same basis for the years 1893 and 1902.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I cannot give the figures in the precise form asked for without exhaustive investigation. The Board of Trade have, however, calculated an Index number showing the average level of general prices in each year since 1871, and the following figures based on that estimate may be of interest to my hon. friend. Declared value of imports and exports in 1893 £682,000,000; ditto in 1902 £878,000,000. Approximate computed value of imports and exports at 1873 values on the assumption that the average value of the articles of our foreign trade has followed the general movement of prices of commodities as shown by the Board of Trade Index number, in 1893, £1,029,000,000; in 1902, £1,323,000,000. If the above method were applied to the figures of 1883 the result would be £821,000,000. It is to be remembered that the level of prices in 1873 was higher than in any year since 1826.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): Can the right hon. Gentleman give the imports and exports separately on the same basis?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes; that can be done.

West Hampstead Telephone Service.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that inhabitants in the Cricklewood and Brondesbury districts of West Hampstead are anxious to use the Post Office telephone service; that the general manager of the telephone department has been written to with a view to have the telephone laid on to the houses while the road is up, and that no satisfactory cause of the delay has been given; and, if so, whether, considering that the ratepayers will be put to unnecessary expense if the road is repaired before the telephones are supplied to the houses, he will see that they are supplied without any undue delay.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The Hampstead Exchange, which will serve the district referred to by the hon. Member, will, it is hoped, be opened at the end of the year. The underground wires for the service of a considerable part of the area to be served have already been provided, and no difficulty is anticipated in providing the lines of the hon. Member and other subscribers now awaiting connection, by the time the Exchange is ready. I am making inquiry as to the particular work in the roadway referred to in the Question. No expense is, however, caused to ratepayers in connection with the laying of Post Office wires under roadways. If the Postmaster-General breaks up a road, he has to restore the surface, or at least pay for its restoration.

Discharged Invalid Maryborough Convicts.

MR. DELANY (Queen's Co., Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that discharged invalid convicts from Maryborough Convict Prison have been sent to the Mountmellick Workhouse and become chargeable upon the local rates; and, if so, whether he will state by whose order those convicts have been so sent, and why they were not deported to their native unions, or to those in which they were located at the time of their conviction.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N., for Mr. WYNDHAM): The facts, I understand, are correctly stated. I am making further inquiry in the matter and would ask the hon. Member to repeat the Question on Wednesday next.

Evicted Tenants and the Land Bill.

MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the fact of an evicted tenant being in possession of a holding debars him under the Land Bill from purchasing a larger and more valuable holding from which he had been evicted within the last twenty-five years, or another farm of equivalent value.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The answer to this Question is in the negative.

Dalkey Polling District.

MR. MOONEY (Dublin Co., S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to resolutions of the Dalkey and Killiney Councils in favour of the establishment of a revision Court at Dalkey; and, if so, whether, seeing that the present system of holding at Kingstown the revision Court for the Dalkey Polling District causes inconvenience and loss to the labouring classes owing to the distance of the Court from the Killiney and Dalkey districts, he will now grant the revision Court asked for.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): This question has been carefully investigated by the Lord Lieutenant, who finds no sufficient reason for making the suggested change.

Irish Caretakers and the Land Bill.

MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact, as shown by the quarterly Return ending 30th June last, that 580 tenants in Ireland were converted into caretakers under Section 7 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, he will consider the advisability of repealing this section, or in the meantime taking some other steps to suspend its operation pending the passing into law of the Land Bill at present before Parliament.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The operation of this enactment could not be suspended without legislation. It is not practicable to consider the question of such legislation at the present period of the session, and my right hon. friend cannot give an undertaking with respect to a future session.

Bundorrhagha Pier.

DR. AMBROSE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that during the recent visit of Their Majesties to the village of Bundorrhagha on Killery Bay, the Royal yacht could not come alongside the pier owing to the shallowness of the water; and whether, considering the inconvenience caused on such occasion, and the fact that the present pier does not extend into deep water, and the advantage it would be to the fishermen of the village to be able to land fish at all tides, he will use his influence with the Congested Districts Board with a view to inducing that Board to extend the pier into deep water.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The locality is not in a congested district. The Department of Agriculture will inquire if the fishing industry there is capable of development. Until this has been ascertained I cannot express an opinion whether the local requirements would justify the large expenditure that would be involved in an extension of the pier to deep water.

Irish National Teachers' Increments.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland when the promised increments will be paid to the national teachers; and when the revised programme for pupils will be issued to the teachers.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The increments are in process of payment at present. The revised programme for pupils has long since been issued. Modifications of this programme will be made from time to time as may be found necessary, but the Commissioners have no immediate intention to issue an entirely new revised programme.

Labourers' Question in Ireland.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he proposes to take any evidence in connection with his inquiry into the labourers' question; and if so, where he proposes to receive it, or how it may be furnished to him, and by whom; and does he undertake to introduce legislation dealing with the question early next session.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): It is not proposed to appoint a Commission to take evidence on this subject. The Local Government Board has already an abundance of information on the general question, but it has taken steps to supplement this by a series of special reports from its inspectors throughout the country. In reply to the concluding inquiry, I fear I cannot usefully add to my right hon. friend's former statements on the matter.

MR. DELANY: Will the Local Government Board consult the district councils on the subject?

MR. ATKINSON: They will be happy to get information and suggestions from any source.

Railway and Canal Rates in Ireland.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if any arrangements have been made between the Great Southern and Western Railway and the Grand Canal Company fixing the minimum rate to be charged for goods traffic at competitive stations, such as Monasterevan, Athy, Carlow, and Bagnalstown; whether the Grand Canal Company is to receive any percentage on the receipts of the carrying trade to these railway stations; and, if so, whether, in view of the necessity of keeping the waterways of Ireland open as competitive routes, and of the effect of such arrangements on means of transit, he will state what steps will be taken in the matter.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The Department has no knowledge of any arrangements such as suggested, and no representations have been made to it on the subject.

MR. KILBRIDE: Is there any truth in the allegation?

MR. ATKINSON: We have no knowledge of any arrangement of the kind.

MR. KILBRIDE: Will the Department inquire?

MR. ATKINSON: The Department can only take action upon specific representations made to it by persons aggrieved.

MR. KILBRIDE: When shall I put down the Question as to the result?

MR. ATKINSON: When the hon. Gentleman thinks proper.

London Financiers and Irish Estates.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord

Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the prospectus issued by a financial company in London with the object of acquiring Irish estates under the Land Bill and re-selling to the tenants at a profit to the money-lenders; and, if so, whether he will undertake that financial schemes of this character will not be allowed to be carried out with the use of public credit or of public money.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): I have not seen the prospectus referred to. The Land Bill affords no special facilities for carrying out such projects. On the contrary, the creation of the Estates Commissioners, with the powers conferred upon them, would seem to dispense with the necessity for such companies. I have no power, however, to interfere in the manner suggested, if the companies act within the law.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Can nothing be done to prevent estates being withdrawn from the process of the Court?

MR. ATKINSON: They are bound to give the tenants the option of buying.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Is it not the case that any outside company can come in and offer such a sum that the tenants could not pay and thus get them out of the road? Cannot that be stopped?

MR. ATKINSON: I do not think it is possible to prevent the landlord selling to a syndicate.

MR. MACVEAGH: Would the landlord receive the bonus in such a case?

MR. ATKINSON: Certainly not. He is only entitled to it if he sells either to the tenants or to the Estates Commissioners.

MR. T. M. HEALY: You have already rejected two Amendments dealing with this matter.

Irish Police and Arrests for Drunkenness.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on a night about 10.30 in the month of October, 1902, a young man named Patrick Meagher, of Borrisoleigh, North Tipperary, proceeding to his home was arrested by Police Constables Murphy and Butler and locked up in a cell in the barracks till the morning; that at Borrisoleigh Petty Sessions Meagher was charged with being drunk and incapable, that the Court, comprised of two resident magistrates, Major Dease and Mr. Heard, on hearing the evidence of these two constables, in addition to that of Sergeant M'Cabe, who all swore that Meagher was drunk, and that of Father Finn and seven other witnesses for the accused, who deposed to knowing him to be a total abstainer, dismissed the case; that (2) Constable Murphy (who is at present stationed at Puckane, Nenagh District) arrested in February of this year on a Sunday at Borrisoleigh a boy named Hammond on a charge of drunkenness, and that Hammond was released on his friends having him examined by Dr. Power, who certified to his sobriety; and, if so, will he cause inquiry to be made into the conduct of the constables responsible for these arrests, with a view to guarding against similar occurrences in future.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The case against Patrick Meagher was dismissed without prejudice. In the second case, the facts of which are correctly stated, Constable Murphy was severely reprimanded for his action by the county inspector and has been transferred to another district.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN: I want to protect my constituents against this sort of thing.

Railway Rates on Irish Agricultural Produce.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the action of the President of the Board of Agriculture in arranging local conferences in respect of railway rates in England; and, whether he is prepared to recommend similar action by the Department of Agriculture in Ireland with the view of securing for Irish agriculturists and traders more favourable rates for the carriage of their produce.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The course suggested has already been adopted by the Irish Department. Conferences have taken place with representatives of railway companies and local bodies on the subject, and the Department is in constant communication with railway and shipping companies on such matters. The action of the Department has been attended by beneficial results.

Dublin City Loans.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Corporation of Dublin have had to complain frequently through their City Treasurer of the delay of the Local Government Board to sanction advances of money made by the Corporation for schemes under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act; and, if so, whether, seeing that these delays tend to discourage all applications under the Act, can he explain the cause of these delays and especially with reference to six applications made on 24th June last, which have not been sanctioned yet; and will he see that the Local Government Board give prompt attention to applications in future.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): There has been no avoidable delay on the part of the Board in sanctioning advances for schemes under this Act. The six applications referred to were received on the 27th June. Much difficulty was experienced in identifying the property included in the applications, which were sanctioned on Friday last.

Irish Poor Law Medical Officers.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware of the dissatisfaction existing amongst the Irish Poor Law medical officers; and, if so, whether he will, in the interests of the sick poor, consent next session to appoint a Royal Commission to consider the whole question of the administration and working of the Irish Poor Law service, including the position and grievances of the medical officers.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): My right hon. friend replied to a similar Question by the same hon. Member on the 16th June.[†] He has nothing to add to that reply except to refer to his statement in answer to the Question on Thursday last of the hon. Member for Kilkenny.[‡]

Tullamore Medical Officer.

DR. THOMPSON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why the Local Government Board for Ireland have informed Dr. M'Carthy, who recently held for a few days the temporary appointment of medical officer of Tullamore dispensary, that his conduct in resigning the appointment would be inquired into by a medical inspector, and that if it was found he had resigned without sufficient cause he would be prohibited in future from holding any Poor Law appointment; and if he will state under what statute or by-law the Local Government Board have so acted.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): Dr. M'Carthy refused to enter upon the duties of the office to which he had been appointed with the approval of the Local Government Board. The Board thereupon requested the guardians to call upon him to take up his duties, and stated that in the event of his still refusing to do so an inquiry would be held into the circumstances, with a view to his removal from office by Sealed Order. The authority for the Board's action in the case will be found in Sections 8 and 16 of the Poor Relief Act of 1851.

*MR. DELANY: Will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to prevent young medical practitioners, willing to earn a livelihood, from being intimidated by the Irish Medical Association?

Belturbet Rate Collector.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he reconsider his decision not to interfere in the case of surcharge against James Dolan, rate collector of Belturbet urban district, in view of the fact that Mr. Dolan has been unable to bear the expense of a madamus motion; and will he direct the Local Government Board to hear an appeal from the auditor's decision in the case.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 1055.

[‡] See page 146.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The Board has already heard an appeal from the auditor's surcharge in this case. Under Section 63 (2) (*b*) of the Local Government Act, 1898, the decision of the Board in the matter is final.

Longford and Leitrim Drainage Boards.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he grant a Return showing the expenses incurred by the drainage boards of County Longford, and also of the Rynn and Black River Drainage Board in County Leitrim; and will he state whether in cases of non-elected boards now managing districts, the owners of the lands in which have become peasant proprietors, any change will be made to admit representatives of tenants on these boards.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): The information desired in the first part of the Question will be communicated to the hon. Member. The second part of the Question appears to be based on a misconception. There are no non-elected drainage boards. Tenants who have become, or who may hereafter become proprietors of lands benefited by drainage works, have a statutory right to vote in the election of drainage boards.

Rathcline (Annally) Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many of the tenants on the Rathcline (Annally) Estate are still denied the rights of purchase; and whether, in the case of those so remaining, he will represent to the Receiver the advisability, in the interests of the estate, of accepting the tenants' offers, and let the sales go through.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): I am awaiting a report from the Land Judge's Court in this matter. Perhaps the hon. Member will be good enough to repeat the Question tomorrow.

Bangor (County Down) Postal Service.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether representations have been made to the authorities in favour of a better postal service for Bangor, County Down; whether he is aware that the present system of collection and delivery of letters has caused inconvenience, especially to the Belfast business men resident in Bangor; and whether he will provide for a better service, which will include an earlier delivery in the morning and a later collection of letters in the evening.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Representations have been made by the Bangor (County Down) Urban District Council respecting additional postal facilities at that place, and I have under consideration arrangements for improving the service, including an earlier delivery in the morning and a later collection of letters in the evening.

Lough Swilly Railway.

DR. THOMPSON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can explain why the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company are not obliged to obey the rules and regulations of the Board of Trade.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I regret that I am unable to add to the reply made to the hon. Member's Question in this matter on the 6th July,† except to say that the Board have communicated with the company as recently as the 28th of that month, and are pressing for a reply.

Port of London Bill.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the public interest in the Port of London Bill, it is intended to proceed with it this session; and, if not, whether, being cognate to a private Bill, it cannot be carried over and resumed next session.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In answer to my hon. friend, I have to say that I do not think it would be practicable at the present period of the session, and in the present state of public business, to proceed with the discussion of this Bill on Report. On the other hand, it is quite clear, I think, that the Bill, for all essential purposes, ought to be ranked as a private Bill and treated as a private Bill, so that the immense expenditure incurred by persons interested in the Bill should not be entirely thrown away, as it would be if the Bill were dropped. I propose, therefore, to apply to this Bill the practice which the House has so long sanctioned in regard to private Bills, and I shall put down a Motion the effect of which will be to carry it over to next session, to enable the Government to resume it next session at the precise point we leave it this session.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1413.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): I suppose it will be made perfectly clear that this course, being taken with general concurrence, and under exceptional circumstances, will not be regarded as a precedent?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I can entirely reassure my right hon. friend on that point of view. I have had that point of view very carefully in my mind, and I can assure him that this will not be applied as a precedent for dealing with public Bills.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): Does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take the Motion to-morrow?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: As to general business, I may say that I propose to take the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill to-morrow instead of on Wednesday, because the course of business in another place makes it impossible to take the Lords Amendments to the Irish Land Bill to-morrow. They will be taken on Wednesday, and the Resolution to which the hon. Gentleman refers will also be taken on Wednesday. The Lords Amendments will come first, and the Cunard Agreement next.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I hope the Motor-Car Bill will not be taken till to-morrow, as we have not yet had an opportunity of seeing the promised Amendments.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope to take the Motor-Car Bill to-morrow, after the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I have every reason to believe that it will not lead to any prolonged debate.

Mr. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): What does the right hon. Gentleman propose to do with the Prevention of Corruption Bill?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: If I had reason to believe it was a non-contentious Bill I should be most happy to do anything I could to pass it, but I cannot hold out any expectation either to myself or to the House that that is the case.

Mr. CHANNING asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would consider the desirability of giving the Bill a good place in the programme of next session?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The Government are quite alive to the importance of the subject.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): When does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take the First Reading of the Appropriation Bill, and will the orders on the Paper be taken to-night as they stand?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Not precisely as they stand. I have given a pledge to bring on the Public Building Expenses Bill before twelve if possible, and that will come on after Report of Supply and the First Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Then will come the Lords Amendments to the Education Bill, the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, the Housing of the Working Classes, and the Revenue. I shall only then take Third Readings.

Sir F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge): Will the Bills of Exchange Act (Second Reading) be taken?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, I have said in addition to the Bills I have named I shall only take Third Readings.

MR. LOUGH: Does that statement as to Third Readings apply to the rest of the week?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, it applies to to-night.

MR. CROOKS: Will there be any opportunity of discussing the Ordnance Vote?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it very desirable. I will see what can be done after Class 5 has been disposed of.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): And the Secretary for Scotland Vote, which we have only given six minutes to this session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not say it will not be brought on. It does not rest with me.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the County of Argyll, in the room of Donald Ninian Nicol, esquire, deceased.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

NEW BILL.

PENAL SERVITUDE BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Penal Servitude in England and Wales," presented by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas; supported by Mr. Cochrane; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 318.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Ordered, "That on this day, notwithstanding anything in Standing Order 15, Business other than Business of Supply may be taken before Midnight, and Proceedings on Report of Supply may be taken after Midnight."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

SUPPLY [23RD ALLOTTED DAY] [6TH AUGUST, EVENING SITTING].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

CLASS I.

"That a sum, not exceeding £321,697, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government Property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expenses of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."

CLASS I.

"That a sum, not exceeding £133,342, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following services included in Class I. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£
13. Public Works and Buildings, Ireland - - -	106,128
14. Railways, Ireland - -	27,214
	£133,342"

CLASS II.

"That a sum, not exceeding £366,072, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class II. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£
1. House of Lords Offices -	4,507
2. House of Commons Offices	16,820
5. Foreign Office - - -	34,887
7. Privy Council Office - .	5,130
9. Mercantile Marine Services	68,860
13. Civil Service Commission .	25,393
14. Exchequer and Audit -	38,321
15. Friendly Societies Registry	4,581
21. Public Works Loan Commission - - - -	13
22. Registrar-General's Office -	22,942
25. Works and Public Buildings Office - - -	37,200
26. Secret Service - - -	25,000

SCOTLAND.

	£
27. Secretary for Scotland's Office	9,985
28. Fishery Board	10,837
29. Lunacy Commission	3,162
30. Registrar-General's Office	3,145
31. Local Government Board	9,157

IRELAND.

	£
32. Lord Lieutenant's Household	2,817
35. Charitable Donations and Bequests	997
37. Public Record Office	3,348
38. Public Works Office	20,053
39. Registrar-General's Office	6,894
40. Valuation and Boundary Survey	12,023
	£366,072"

CLASS III.

"That a sum, not exceeding £1,402,874, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of the following Services included in Class III. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz:—

	£
1. Law Charges	38,984
2. Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	22,489

SCOTLAND.

	£
10. Law Charges and Courts of Law	52,405
11. Register House, Edinburgh	27,053
12. Crofters' Commission	2,790
13. Prisons	50,840

IRELAND.

	£
14. Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	33,600
15. Supreme Court of Judicature and other Legal Departments in Ireland	57,805
16. Land Commission	76,740
17. County Court Officers, &c.	66,527
18. Dublin Metropolitan Police	55,468
19. Royal Irish Constabulary	792,002
20. Prisons	68,508
21. Reformatory and Industrial Schools	54,099
22. Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,564
	£1,402,874"

CLASS IV.

"That a sum, not exceeding £854,228, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of the following Services, included in Clause IV. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£.
6. Scientific Investigation, &c. (United Kingdom)	45,000
8. Public Education (Scotland)	808,828
9. National Gallery (Scotland)	400
	£854,228"

CLASS V.

"That a sum, not exceeding £1,236,998, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class V. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz.:—

	£
1. Diplomatic and Consular Services	284,780
2. British Protectorates in Uganda	445,593
3. Colonial Services	361,525
4. Cyprus (Grant-in-Aid)	2,000
5. Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable	40,100
6. Treasury Chest Fund	103,000
	£1,236,998"

Resolutions read a second time.

First Five Resolutions postponed.

Sixth Resolution considered.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that before the House entered upon the discussion of the specific question relating to the Protectorate, which he understood was to be raised, he should like to put one or two questions regarding a matter which was of very grave and urgent importance. He did not know whether the Prime Minister would be able to add much to what they had learned from the public prints, or tell them much with regard to the policy which the Government proposed to follow, but he believed there was so much anxiety on the subject that he thought an indication from the Prime Minister would be gladly received. He need hardly say that he referred to the state of things which at present existed in Macedonia. According to the public prints and advices of the last two or three days they had learned that the state of things existing in Macedonia was that the insurrection, which had been smouldering over most of the country, had now burst into violent flame, particularly on the western portion adjoining Albania. He assumed that the Government would do all that was in their power to induce the Turkish Government to keep its head, and to impress upon its soldiery the necessity of behaving with as much restraint as possible; and, above all, that they would endeavour to prevent the Albanians from being let loose upon the unfortunate peasantry of the provinces which adjoined the Albanian frontier. This poor peasantry had suffered for the sins of both parties. On the one hand they were liable to be plundered by the insurgents, and on the other hand by the Albanians and Turkish troops. In view of their sufferings it seemed most important that everything that could be done should be done to prevent the Albanians from throwing themselves headlong into a situation which is already fraught with elements of danger and suffering. There had been a rumour to the effect that the Turks were going to withdraw that part of their forces which it was contemplated should be placed on the Albanian frontier, and which to some extent was keeping the Albanians in check. To do so would be to aggravate the danger of the situation, and he hoped that they would hear that the Government would do all that was possible to dissuade the Turks from such a course. He was afraid that a great many shocking and cruel things were being done on both sides, but he would ask the House to remember, when stories of atrocities were brought to this country, that it was largely Europe itself that was to blame for the state of things in these provinces.

Twenty-five years ago the Treaty of Berlin was concluded, under which there were schemes of reform settled for these provinces, which, if carried out, would have removed the evils that had followed and the present deplorable state of things. Nothing had ever been done to carry out those schemes of reform. He mentioned this not only for the sake of asking the House to bear in mind the provocation given by the non-fulfilment of promises, but to warn them of the results which necessarily followed when a question which was full of peril and which involved so much misery to a suffering population was perpetually, from time to time, adjourned. If the steps had been taken in 1878 which Europe pledged itself to take, they would not have had these twenty-five years' of misery nor the dangerous position in which Eastern Europe now stood. He could not help hoping, if the present dangers were surmounted, if the insurrection was reduced or quelled, and some sort of order and peace was restored, that the two Powers principally concerned—Austria and Russia—would not be satisfied with the feeble attempt which was made to introduce reforms some six or eight months ago, and which were never effectively carried out, because no proper powers were given to the official placed at the head of the administration; but that they would endeavour to do something which would give some promise of a permanent settlement of the country, and which, for the next few years at any rate, would enable the people to live with something approaching peace and security. He should like to ask His Majesty's Government whether they could give any further information with regard to the existing state of things; and whether they could give any indication of the news they had obtained, the course they proposed to take, and the course, which, so far as they knew, was likely to be taken by the Turks on the one hand and by Austria and Russia on the other. He could well understand that the Government would not do well to go far in disclosing their views, but, inasmuch as the House was separating for some months, and they might have no opportunity of referring to the question again, it was only right that this opportunity should be given to the Government of stating the views they entertained and, if possible, of indicating the course they would follow.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I am afraid I have little to say to the House of a reassuring or consolatory character as to the news which reaches us from Macedonia. That portion of Europe has been long a source of difficulty and anxiety to European statesmen; and I am not going to follow the right hon. Gentleman in his criticism of the action, or perhaps I ought to say, the inaction, of Europe during the five-and-twenty years which have elapsed since the Treaty of Berlin was signed. The right hon. Gentleman knows as well as anybody the extreme difficulties that attach to the problem which Europe then set itself to settle; and though I should be the first to admit the little success with which those efforts have been met, I do not think that critics of European diplomacy ought to forget the extraordinary and complex difficulties with which the task is surrounded. As the House knows, it is not merely a question of dealing with the misrule of the dominant Government; it is a question which raises local and national animosities, not alone among Mahomedans, but among the Christians in the areas concerned; and it is also a question which touches to the quick some of the most complicated problems of large European diplomacy. These are great aggravations of a deep-seated disease; and much as I deplore, with the right hon. Gentleman, the total unsuccess which so far has attended the efforts of Europe to relieve the situation, I mention it with more regret than I do with surprise. I confess that I had hoped, and still hope, that the more modest and simpler plan, which we have recently desired to aid to the best of our ability, may be more happy in its result—I mean the simpler plan of admitting that it is Russia and Austria who are chiefly concerned in this problem, and that it is the duty of the rest of Europe rather to support them, and to further their ends, so long as we are convinced that those ends are directed, in no ambitious spirit, to the amelioration of the population, and further them all the more heartily because the administrative reforms which they have suggested—doubtless totally inadequate as a final solution of the question—may, nevertheless, from their very modesty, be more easy of adaptation and of adoption. It is, unfortunately, true that the disorders which have prevailed in Macedonia ever since Russia and Austria took this plan in hand, have made it almost impossible, with the best will in the world, to do anything very important or very far-reaching in the direction even of carrying out that measure of reform. And I am afraid we have sorely to admit that it is these very insurrectionary and revolutionary bands themselves who have been one of the chief obstacles to the success of the joint schemes of Russia and Austria, which His Majesty's Government, and, I think, all the Governments of Europe, are anxious to the best of their ability to further. I have to admit that the picture which the right hon. Gentleman has painted of the condition of the peasantry in Macedonia, lurid as it was, was not painted in colours too dark for the situation. The lot of these unhappy people—many of them Bulgarians, some Servians, some Greeks, and Roumanians, belonging to different sections of the Christian Church, and belonging by blood to different nationalities—has been, between the outrages deliberately planned by those revolutionary bodies of men and the licence of the Turkish troops, a miserable one indeed. So far, I believe that the historic truth requires us to say that the balance of criminality lies rather with the revolutionary bands than with the Turkish troops; and everything His Majesty's Government can do to impress upon the Porte the absolute necessity of keeping the troops in hand, and every assistance we can give to the Porte in carrying out that object, will be given. I believe the Porte is as keenly alive, I will not say to the humanitarian side of the question, as we are, but to the absolute necessity, from the political side, of repressing any excesses on the part of the Turkish troops—not a very easy task, let me say, when there is a deliberate attempt made by provoking such excesses to compel overt European intervention

I am convinced the Porte is sincerely desirous of carrying out this policy, which is not merely a policy of humanity, but a policy of obvious wisdom. At all events, such influence as we have will be exerted strenuously and without intermission in that direction. We have, unfortunately, no corresponding authority with the revolutionary bands. Their deliberate and, I believe, avowed, object is to make the condition of Macedonia so intolerable that there must be, at whatever cost to the general peace of the world, some intervention on the part of Austria or Russia, or both. That is not the policy which we desire to foster. The policy which we desire to further is the one I have described, which I think meets with the general sympathy of the House, and is probably in conformity with the views of the right hon. Gentleman himself, and that is, to aid Austria and Russia in introducing those elementary principles of sound government which, far as they may be removed from what we should ourselves desire to see, and which, perhaps, we may some day live to see, is yet probably the best plan of dealing in the immediate future with the deep-seated evils of these most unhappy portions of the European nations.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said the whole House would regret that on this occasion the Prime Minister had not received the assistance of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in this debate, and it was partly for the purpose of allowing the right hon. Gentleman to reply to the further portions of the debate that he proposed to move a reduction. In discussing Class 5 or any of these classes on Report they had to discuss at once, all the various items which that class contained so far as it was desirable to discuss them at all, and so speak only once, so that the whole of the subjects on which it was desired to speak must be treated at one time. The large question of policy raised by his hon. friend had been disposed of. There were other questions on which they felt very strongly, some of which were of an unusual or a biennial character and were continually arising, but the question upon which he proposed to move the reduction was one which was greatly deserving the attention of the House and was now raised for the first time. A short time ago a Resolution was moved in this House with regard to the Congo Free State, and that Resolution as passed admitted the evils of that State with regard both to monopoly and the natives. At that time an answer had been given by the Foreign Secretary with regard to some negotiations which were supposed to be pending at Brussels between our Foreign Office and the Congolese State Office with regard to the cession to the Congolese of some portion of the Anglo-Egyptian sphere in the province of Bahr-el-Ghazal. The House had been relieved by the statement then made by the Secretary of State, because they understood from that, that while there might have been some negotiations nothing was going to be done. They would have anticipated that nothing would have come of any such negotiations because of the circumstances of the Congo Free State, and of the denunciation of its policy by the unanimous opinion of this country, and at that very moment it could not be conceived that we should hand over to the Government of the Congo Free State a number of persons living in the Anglo-Egyptian sphere of influence The King of the Belgians, as Sovereign of the Congo Free State, was in temporary occupation on lease of the Lado enclave, but that lease was a lease strictly limited to the life of the present Sovereign of the Congo Free State; it was a lease that would not have been given if they had known what they did now; and given the fact that the life of the Sovereign of the Congo Free State was not what was known as a good life, he being an old man, it was a very different thing to contemplate a lease given on the life of an aged Sovereign, and to contemplate the cession of a portion of the Anglo-Egyptian sphere of influence for ever. What he wanted to ask the Government was how matters stood at the present time, and if they were going to carry out those negotiations. If they were, then the House ought to warn the Government of the responsibility they would incur in handing over to the Congo Free State any portion of the Anglo-Egyptian sphere of influence. These doubts had been raised by what had been said by the Prime Minister in the last few days. This Question had been put by his hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon, Eifion, "What is the result of the negotiations for the transfer of part of the Bahr-el- hazal to the Congo Free State; and whether any, and, if so, what, steps have been taken to ascertain the views of the inhabitants as to the proposed transfer." In reply to that Question, the Prime Minister gave an answer which suggested that some such transfer of territory was in contemplation. The Congo Free State had been denounced as guilty of the charges brought against it; the House had unanimously expressed the opinion that the proceedings of that State were contrary to the Act by which it was created; the Cabinet, by whom the lease was granted, had admitted that it was a temporary lease, and that it would not have been granted had the circumstances with which the Committee were now familiar been then known; and in the face of all these facts he thought the House ought to force on the Government a declaration that no such permanent transfer of territory to the Congolese Government should be perpetrated.

Upon this Vote there also arose questions connected with that miscellaneous collection of protectorates which, in his opinion, indefinitely extended the charges upon this country without any commensurate result. The recent Report—"Africa, No. 9, Memorandum"—showing the position of the four African Protectorates administered by the Foreign Office, presented a miserable financial picture. Vast sums of money had been sunk by this country in the virtual annexation of these protectorates, but the prospect of any return was remote. The protectorates were mostly inland countries, growing tropical produce of the same kind as the West Indies, and if the West Indies, with a good climate, fertile soil, and magnificent geographical positions, could not be made to pay, he feared we should never make these internal protectorates pay. In order to procure cheap labour, what was virtually a system of slavery had been set up. In connection with the Protectorate of Zanzibar, the Government had year after year been asked what steps they were taking to get rid of the system of slavery, of which we forced the recent Zanzibar Local Government to proclaim the abolition, but which we had not ourselves abolished. Since the matter was discussed last year, the Report—"Africa No. 6 (1902)"—had been laid before the House, in which Mr. Farler, who was described as "His Highness' Commissioner," related the steps he had taken "to search for and collect all vagrants and masterless men," who were "at once sent off to pick cloves." "By these various means," said Mr. Farler, "we soon had a large body of labour available." Although for the purposes of the Sugar Convention, Zanzibar and Pemba constituted a foreign country, it could not be denied that the authorities were directly responsible to the Foreign Office, and by their acts, both in the time of the recent Government, and since the government had been directly in their own hands, the Foreign Office had assumed the fullest responsibility for the system of slavery which continued to exist in the country. Year by year the Foreign Office related with some complacency the steps which had been taken to put down the system, but the shameful fact remained that slavery still continued. As regarded the East Africa Protectorate, on page 28 of the Report of His Majesty's Commissioner, there appeared the following statement by Sir C. Eliot:—

> "I have never hesitated to publicly express my regret at this recognition of slavery, but it must be remembered that two principles are involved, namely, the freedom of the individual in British or quasi-British possessions, and the sanctity of British promises. Now, when we first occupied the Coast we promised the Arabs to respect the institutions of Mahommedanism, including domestic slavery."

Time after time it had been shown in the House that nobody had power to make such a promise, and that no such promise was understood to have been made, but as the House did not always remember previous debates he would quote a letter, which had appeared since the debate of last year, from Bishop Tucker, who, though not now responsible for these districts, had been, and knew them as well as anybody, and had been mixed up in the controversy on this subject. In this letter, addressed to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Bishop Tucker said—

> "There are those who, as you observe, do not look upon Sir Lloyd Mathews's words as a pledge. I am among that number. I was present at the Baraza when they were spoken, and certainly never connected them with the

question of slavery. But for the sake of argument I am willing to assume that they do constitute a pledge. We have, however, on the other side a pledge, distinct and definite in its terms, given by Mr. Balfour to the House of Commons. In my previous letter I quoted the words, and therefore will not repeat them. That they were regarded by the Government as a pledge is proved by Mr. Curzon's words, spoken in the House of Commons a year later—early in 1898. Evidently referring to Mr. Balfour's speech in June, 1897, he said—'Then as regards the mainland, a pledge was given last year that at the earliest possible date the abolition of slavery would be carried out on the mainland.'"'

He denied that any pledge to maintain slavery was or could have been given; and contended not only that this country was free to abolish slavery in this strip of territory, but that the time had long since come when slavery ought to be abolished in what was virtually a British colony. It was to be regretted that into several of these protectorates there had been introduced the system of concessions—the very system, although doubtless in a mitigated form, which had been condemned in the Congo Free State. The replies to questions which had been put to the Government showed that concessions were being granted, which, if not absolutely illegal, were nevertheless of such a nature as to require the closest scrutiny and attention on the part of the House. The answer of the Under-Secretary of State to a Question by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University, with reference to a rubber concession to an Italian firm, was that the text of the concession had not yet reached the Foreign Office, thereby showing that concessions were being granted by the local authority. He implored the Government, if they could not stop it altogether, to guard most scrupulously this policy of granting rubber concessions, because unless it was so watched it was bound to have the frightful results which had been seen in the Congo Free State. The whole policy with regard to these protectorates was one in which he had never believed. In his final report on the subject, Sir C. Eliot expressed the hope, as regarded both the interior of Uganda and British East Africa—

"That, in view of the really great possibilities offered for raising stock and growing corn, His Majesty's Government may see their way to assist the establishment of these industries.'"

It was actually suggested that, after the enormous sums of money which had been spent in those protectorates without any return, and the frightful waste in connection with the Uganda Railway, the British taxpayer should be called upon to start beef and corn-growing industries. The idea seemed to be that we were to make it more difficult to obtain supplies from the places from which at present it was easiest to secure them, and to spend money on producing food in districts so far from the coast as to be of little benefit to us. It was an absurd idea, and there was no prospect, as far as he could see, to justify any such expenditure. It was true that we could not draw out of our engagements, but there was surely need to proceed carefully, and not to embark on new schemes of expenditure in connection with these protectorates which nothing in the past or in the prospects for the future seemed to justify.

With regard to Cyprus, he should like to ask a question. There appeared to have been a certain contention set up in regard to a recent motion, said to have been brought before the Legislative Assembly of Cyprus by the Turkish member, of a most curious description. The Turkish member moved a resolution to the effect that if it was the intention of England to evacuate Cyprus it should be handed back to the Turks. He did not know that the Chairman of that assembly ought to have allowed that question to have been put; but he was told that it was put, and it seemed to have had the support of the official members. Any prudent person would have taken the view that His Majesty's Government, after having repeatedly said that they would not hand Cyprus back to any other rule but ours, would not have supported a motion of that kind. The effect of that motion having been put and voted for by the official members, was that public opinion was being inflamed and rioting had occurred. He also understood that the native members of the Council had only been called once to the meetings of the Council since the time they were sworn in, and they had never since been summoned to its deliberations during eighteen months, although the Council had met several times during that period. He begged to move a reduction of this Vote by £1,000.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£1,236,998' and insert '£1,235,998.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That £1,236,998 stand part of the Resolution."

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said he desired to call attention to the whole policy of the Foreign Office in regard to the native races in the African Protectorates for which this country was responsible. He wished to know what action the Government had taken in regard to the unanimous Resolution passed by the House of Commons to which the Prime Minister and the Government had given their assent. The object of those who supported that Resolution was that the attention of the other signatory Powers should be called to the present condition of the Congo State, and that some joint action should be suggested by the Government in order to inquire into the serious allegations which had been made in regard to the government of the Congo State, and which had hardly been denied by anyone. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make a statement to the House as to what steps had been taken in consequence of the Resolution of the House, and what prospect there was of some really practical step being taken to put an end to the present condition of things in the Congo State. He joined in pressing upon the Government the expediency of concluding any treaty with the Congo State for the transfer of any portion of the Anglo-Egyptian Protectorate to the Congo State. He hoped that, at all events for the present, until these matters were cleared up, if there was any idea of transferring any of our Anglo-Egyptian sphere of influence to the Congo State it would be reconsidered. Anybody who had watched these matters must be impressed with the great danger there was of a new species of slavery being established in Africa. This arose from the same cause as the institution of foreign slavery itself. There was a growing demand for india-rubber in Europe, and it was a commodity of great value which could only be collected by native labour, and if this question was not watched by the civilised Powers the system would undoubtedly degenerate into slavery. The same thing happened in the Spanish mines in America, where, notwithstanding all the efforts made by the enlightened States, who did their best to prevent the system degenerating into slavery, it did degenerate into a species of slavery which proved to be very cruel to the natives. They had now a specimen of this in the Congo State, where the necessity of making the State pay was pressed upon by the persons who administered it, and they found that the only way to make the Congo State pay was by the collection of rubber. When it was found to be impossible to persuade the natives to devote themselves to the collection of rubber, then began a system of forced labour and slavery atrocities of every kind to compel them to bring in the rubber, which had produced a state of things appalling to all modern ideas of humanity. Although the state of things was not quite so bad as in the Belgian Congo, it was nevertheless following in the same direction, and those who had watched these proceedings were greatly alarmed. It was the same kind of commercial policy which had produced the frightful state of things now existing in the Belgian and French Colonies. The regulations which had been referred to by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to be effective, required to be administered by an independent officer and watched with great vigilance. He thought the collection of rubber as a commercial policy was one which ought not to be imitated by this House. If it was found necessary to continue this policy, it should be most carefully watched by the Home Government, and everything that went on there reported, because in this House the proceedings both of the commercial bodies who collected the rubber and the Government officials who controlled it would be very jealously watched, and he trusted that might prevent any degeneration into such practices as existed in other parts of the Congo. He also wished to call attention to the experiment which was going on in Nyassaland in reference to the transfer of native labour from that protectorate to the Transvaal Colony. They had no information as to what the permanent regulations were going to be in Nyassaland Protectorate. He did not think the regulation which specified the conditions under which labour might be engaged within the protectorate were at all sufficient to procure the proper treatment of natives when they were sent outside the protection of the State to which they belonged into other colonies.

If they contrasted the elaborate arrangements and safeguards regarding the exportation of coolies from British colonies to other countries with the very perfunctory arrangements to which he was now calling attention, he thought the Government would come to the conclusion that, if this experiment in the exportation of native labour was to continue, very much more careful and elaborate regulations would be necessary. He should like in particular to call attention to one part of the present system which was very far from sufficient. It would be remembered that 1,000 natives were sent as an experiment to the Transvaal colony. It was stated in this House that they all had the nature of their engagement explained to them by an official or magistrate of the Nyassaland Protectorate. The regulations required that a magistrate was not to approve of an agreement under which a native was engaged to serve elsewhere than in the protectorate unless he was satisfied that the labourer or the porter fully understood the nature of the service, the distance to be travelled, and such other conditions of service as might seem to him proper to be understood. That seemed perfectly sensible where porters were engaged to accompany an expedition in Nyassaland, or a traveller going in search of big game, or anything of that kind. But how was a magistrate in Nyassaland to explain to a native such a thing as underground labour in a gold mine? The magistrate had probably never been in one, and the native had no idea of the kind of labour he was engaging for. He had read in the newspapers—he did not know whether the statement was authentic—that no less than 100 of the Nyassaland natives had been brought before the magistrate at Johannesburg and had declared that they were unacquainted with the kind of labour to which they were going to be put. They declined to go underground, and said they were not informed when engaged of the nature of the work. They were all sent to jail because they would not fulfil their contract, which, it was said, was explained to them. If anything like a regular deportation of labour from Nyassaland was to take place he thought some further regulations and precautions would have to be taken in order to secure that the natives who were engaged really knew what they were engaging themselves to. The natives required a kind of protection which Europeans or highly civilised men did not want, and it was the duty of the Government of the protectorate to see when they were brought before a magistrate to sign a paper that they really knew before signing that they were going to engage themselves for underground labour in a foreign country.

Another question he wished to ask was—What steps are to be taken to secure that the results of this experiment will be adequately brought before this House and the country? The thousand natives who had gone to work in the Transvaal mines had gone notoriously as an experiment. It was stated in this House that the Foreign Office most reluctantly gave its consent to the experiment being tried. Pressure was, no doubt, brought to bear by other Departments of the Government; and the Foreign Office were induced to agree to it as an experiment. He thought the Foreign Office themselves must take some steps to have reported the results of the experiment. He did not understand that these natives were being watched by any official representing the Foreign Office in Johannesburg. The statement was made that a great many had fallen ill, and that many of them had died. What he wanted was that the House of Commons should have, on the authority of the Foreign Office and the Government next session, some information as to how the thousand natives had fared in Johannesburg; how many were put in prison because they did not understand the nature of the contract; how many died; how many became sick; and how many had returned to Nyassaland with their wages. He hoped that steps, if not already taken, would be taken to secure that the results of the experiment would be placed before the House of Commons, and that no additional natives would be exported from Nyassaland to work in Transvaal mines until it was known that no material injury could take place to them for which the Government would be responsible.

MR BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield), said he wished to ask the Prime Minister a question arising out of the Memorandum, "Africa, No. 9 (1903)," issued by the Foreign Office, dealing with the Somaliland Protectorate. In that document they had clearly and definitely for the first time a statement of what the Government were really fighting for in Somaliland. It appeared that the policy now was entirely the reverse of the policy declared eight or ten years ago, when Somaliland was taken over by this country. Then our policy was to protect those who dwelt in Somaliland against the raiding of the Abyssinians, and up to the present time the House had been in the very unfortunate position of not quite knowing what we were fighting for and endangering the lives of our brave troops in that region. He asked whether, in this document issued by the Foreign Office, the true policy was declared, and whether the Government had no better and higher policy than that which had been laid down by the Foreign Office in their own Report. They said—

> "In present circumstances, it is useless to forecast the future of the protectorate, but it is not impossible that the military operations will leave behind them assets in the way of wells and improved means of communication which may lead to the future development of the little known resources of the country."

The following sentence was one in which the Foreign Office seemed to take great pride—

> "There have, indeed, already been applications for concessions to work mica and fibres and for licences to prospect for minerals."

According to the Foreign Office Report, therefore, the real thing we were fighting for was to give concessions to Stock Exchange speculators. The Report stated that one of the assets would be the wells. The wells were a means of living for the natives themselves, and were we going to take the wells and form them into limited companies for the supply of waterworks? He really thought the Committee ought to have some explanation of the policy in Somaliland. His own impression was that if we got back to the true policy of protecting the natives, as declared some years ago, we should very soon find some way by which war would be stopped.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said that there was a strong feeling, not only in the House of Commons, but in the country, in regard to our action, both moral and commercial, in the Congo. He was quite sure that the right hon. Gentleman and the Government would be very ill-advised if they went contrary to public opinion in this matter, and if they carried out what was alleged to be their policy. He trusted it was not correctly stated that they were coming to some arrangement with the Congo State whereby a portion of what was British territory would be handed over in perpetuity to the Congo State in exchange for what was a mere temporary lease of another portion of territory. He hoped the Government would hold their hand, unless they could show a very strong case for acting otherwise, until they had, as promised, co-operated with other States and brought pressure to bear in order that there might be some alleviation on questions of humanity and monopoly in the Congo State. His right hon. friend the Member for Cambridge University had raised the question of labour in British East Africa and Central Africa.

He had been reading a Report by Mr. Marsden, of the East African Protectorate, who took a very broad-minded view of our duty in regard to the native labour question. That official would not allow any recruiting of natives in East Africa for South African mines on any condition whatever. Further information was wanted in regard to the point raised by the right hon. Gentleman, the Member for Cambridge University. It had been raised a little time ago by the hon. Member for North Norfolk, viz., the experiment that was to be tried of recruiting 1,000 natives in Nyassaland for the South African mines. According to the information given to him—although he could not vouch for its absolute accuracy—350 out of the proposed 1,000 were actually recruited and were taken down to Johannesburg. Of these, 68 refused to work underground because, they said, they were not aware that they had been recruited for underground labour. It was quite clear that the difficulty of explaining to the natives of Nyassaland made it quite probable that they did not understand they were to work underground, as there was no such labour in their own land. The magistrate, however, did not take that view, and these 68 men were fined in £1 each and sent to prison for a fortnight. He believed that the remainder of the original 350 had since absolutely declined to go underground. This was a very serious matter to the men if they had been recruited under false representations; and it would be of advantage to future recruiting if misunderstandings could be avoided between the natives and the recruiters. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give the House full information on the point.

There was a limited portion of the East African Protectorate known as the Ten-mile Strip under direct British control, in which slavery still prevailed. The Foreign Office had been left behind by public opinion, both inside and outside the House, on this question of taking sterner and stricter measures for the abolition of slavery on that Ten-mile Strip. His right hon. friend the Member for Forest of Dean stated that Sir Charles Eliot gave as the reason for not taking action that certain British promises were involved. This particular question of British promises had been discussed more than once, and it had been shown in a letter to *The Times*, by the late Lord Kimberley, who was supposed to be responsible for these promises, that they did not refer to slavery at all, but to the religious question. Definite pledges had been given by the Foreign Office that slavery in that region would disappear; but the official representatives of the British Government told them to wait patiently, and the inevitable collapse of slavery would come. They had waited for more than ten years for this consummation, and it was rather too much to ask them to wait longer. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give the House some satisfaction by stating that the Foreign Office were going to keep their pledge on this important matter. As to the financial position of the Uganda and the East African Protectorates, which were practically one, he confessed that it was a source of the greatest disappointment, after all the prophecies and promises which had been made. The total expenditure in 1902 was, in round figures, £400,000, and for the coming year it was estimated at £550,000. Against that there was an increase of revenue from £132,000 to £140,000. They were told that as soon as the country passed into British control, and the railway was made, the expenditure would be diminished and the revenue increased. Instead of that, the expenditure had increased to £550,000, but there was, in addition to that, £250,000 interest on the sinking fund for the railway, or a total expenditure of £800,000, and a revenue of £140,000, leaving £700,000 to be spent by the British taxpayer for the upkeep of these protectorates. Sir Charles Eliot, in his Report, looked forward to a largely increased instead of a diminished expenditure, because the railway was of no practical use for revenue-producing purposes. It could only be made to pay by developing the country, and by establishing industries. He hoped the Government would look seriously into this matter, and attempt to reduce expenditure. Developments should be carried on slowly.

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth) said he hoped some satisfactory explanation would be given as to the situation in Somaliland. As he understood it, the tribes which we had undertaken to protect had been raided, and that we were bound to protect them. From the information he had received from Somaliland, he recognised that there were great difficulties in the situation. A friend of his wrote that a letter had been received from the Mullah, in which he said:—"What are you doing here? Silver and gold have I none, nor walled cities. I have naught but stones and ant-hills; and the sun is hot. Why are you here?" As his friend remarked, all these statements were true. The position was very difficult, and under the circumstances he thought the Government had not shown any want of energy. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to say that there was every prospect of a speedy and successful termination to the operations in that country.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said he wished to refer to the North Sea fisheries, and also to the trawling fishing in the Moray Firth. A conference considered these questions in Christiania; and he wished to ask whether the Foreign Office had taken any further action, in connection with other Powers, regarding them. They were questions of vital importance to the fishing population in these countries. With reference to Egypt, he asked a question the other day as to whether the policy of the Government remained unchanged; and the reply was that there was no change of policy. He had occasion to call the attention of the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Lord Cromer's Report, in which the limited accommodation for the insane in Egypt was referred to. There was only one asylum in the whole country, and that could only accommodate 2,000 patients, the result being that many of them had to be liberated much sooner than they should. He could cite cases where lunatics were at large, to the terror of the native population as well as to their own danger. He hoped the Foreign Office would take steps in this matter; and that it would receive the consideration it deserved. He also wished to mention another question, viz., the stringent regulations which had been laid on pilgrims from Egypt to Mecca, the result being that last year only two pilgrims went to Mecca, as compared with thousands in previous years. Nothing touched people more than to strike at their religion; and, as an enormous number of Mohammedans were British subjects, he sincerely trusted that the Foreign Office would take steps to have these rules relaxed in order that trouble might be avoided in Egypt. This country could not afford to have any trouble in Egypt, and it would be a sorry day for England if Egypt were given up. It was better under British control than under the control of any other Power; but it should be administered satisfactorily. He thought it desirable to call attention to these matters on the present occasion, because, when he had offered Questions on the subject, they were refused at the Table.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot discuss whether Questions were, or were not, properly refused at the Table.

MR. WEIR said he did not wish to dwell on the matter, although, if his Questions had been accepted, the time of the House might have been saved. He was sorry the noble Lord the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs was not able to be present; but he should like to ask whether the abolition of the likin dues in China was working satisfactorily. He should also wish to know whether steps had been taken to remove the barrier to the Canton river. The head of the Customs Department, Sir Robert Hart, was now well on in years, and he wished to ask whether any arrangements had been entered into regarding his successor. He further hoped that the Foreign Office would push forward the new railway in China, for which a concession had been received. Neglect in such a matter was not calculated to improve the prestige of this country in China.

*MR. MOON (St. Pancras, N.) said that when the Consular Vote was last discussed, the Inter-departmental Report on the Consular service was brought forward, and was, he thought, received with universal approval. His noble friend, whose absence they all regretted, was one of the signatories to that Report, and indicated that he thoroughly approved of it. He would not dwell on all the points mentioned in the Report; but he would refer to two which had not been commented on previously. One was the limited possibilities of transfer between different branches of the consular service. The Report proposed interchangeability in one sphere, viz., from the Siamese service to the general service. He would venture to suggest that the right of transfer should exist as between the general Eastern Consular service—that was to say the Chinese and Japanese service—and the consular service generally. The other day they had to listen to the hon. Member for East Clare, for half the period the Vote was under discussion, who was referring to the case of an Irish gentleman in the Eastern consular service whose career had been determined because his health would not permit him to return to the East. If he recollected right, the extra amount involved in carrying out the reforms suggested in the report would only be £3,250. That sum might be saved in the diplomatic expenses in Germany. He did not know whether the Government were providing for the time when the

German Empire would resolve itself into its component parts; but diplomatic expenditure was now being incurred in various places in Germany outside Berlin, where a sum considerably exceeding £10,000 was spent. At Munich £1,700 was paid for our diplomatic service, £1150 at Dresden, £700 at Darmstadt; total £3,550. He hoped the First Lord of the Treasury would be able to give the House a definite assurance on the subject, which had been the subject of recommendation of more than one earlier Report.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said he wished to refer to a matter which was of great importance to British trade, namely, the treaty which was being negotiated between Roumania and Germany, the results of which, unless the interests of this country were closely watched, might be much the same, in diminishing British trade, as the results of a similar treaty which was made with Russia a few years ago. He was informed that at Bucharest there was no adequate commercial representation of British interests, and, what to him was a singular fact, that Roumania appeared to be outside the sphere of action of any commercial attaché. That was a state of things that ought to be redressed. This was the one part where our trade had been unprogressive. He hoped there fore the suggestion which he had made previously would even now be considered. That suggestion was that a special commercial representative should be sent to Bucharest. If the right hon. Gentleman would give an assurance that this urgent matter would be attended to he would greatly oblige the commercial community of this country. He regretted that there had been an increase in the vote for Cyprus, but he hoped that that would not be considered a deterrent, because last year was an exceptional year owing to the drought, and the collection of the revenue had only been postponed, and in many instances would be recovered, and the debit balance shown by this estimate would be largely reduced. The revenue itself had exceeded the estimate, and gave indications of the island being in a satisfactory condition. With regard to the tribute, the unanimous feeling among the British in Cyprus was that not only was the tribute a great burden but it was the dominating fact with regard to the island, and unless something was done with regard to it the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary could not hope to develop the resources of the country. The Cypriots were no parties to the agreement with Turkey; the bargain was decidedly a bad one, and owing to the depressing effect of the tribute he expressed the hope that the right hon. Gentleman would at last endeavour to take some steps with a view of converting it and making the payment less burdensome to the people. He desired to acknowledge the great debt of gratitude which was due to the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary for his policy of developing the resources of the island. Improvement was apparent in all directions; justice was excellently administered; the military police, as was seen from those in this country during the Coronation celebrations, were a noble body of men; education was improved, and the reform and simplification of the fiscal policy had been of the greatest benefit to the people. The advantage of the afforestation all over the island was easy to be perceived; and the establishment of good roads and bridges, for which a tribute should be paid to the High Commissioner as well as the Colonial Secretary had greatly contributed to the perfection of communication; and with regard to the local scourge, he believed the measures adopted had been very successful.

The silk industry had been so improved that he could not name a place where it existed under better conditions or better prospects. They were in want of new fields for the growing of cotton, and if sufficient means could be provided for the growth of cotton in Cyprus it would be of great benefit to the island, and we should be able to receive the best quality of cotton from our own possession. He would like to know how far the irrigation works had been successful. He understood that judgment must be suspended with regard to them for some time till they were more perfect, when it could be better judged. The works were of a most important character, and if the island could be protected against those great droughts which occurred both in historic and modern times, they would be of the greatest benefit. He thought the harbours and the shipping communications might be improved. The attractions and the security for capital were very great, and if better communication in the way of shipping, especially for mails and passengers, were provided, a great work might be rapidly brought to a very high point of development. Communication with the island was still very bad, and left a good deal to be desired. The development of the island was creditable to British administration, and the High Commissioner was entitled to the greatest credit, as were also the Commissioners of the various districts He hoped the great work the right hon. Gentleman had taken in hand would be continued, and, above all, that the tribute would be converted and a more reasonable rate of payment secured. The conversion of the tribute would form a fitting completion to the great work for which gratitude was felt both here and in the island to the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend's speech touched partly on that portion of the Vote which would naturally fall to be answered by the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs and partly to that portion which concerns the Colonial Office. I shall, of course, abstain from touching the questions affecting the Colonial Office; and, indeed, even as regards the points raised which relate to the Foreign Office, it is not possible for me, in the circumstances of the case, to have a detailed knowledge of them. I can only indicate in a general outline the policy of the Government with respect to them. As to the Treaty of Commerce now being negotiated between Roumania and Germany, we have sent the commercial *attaché* from Constantinople to watch the proceedings. He is eminently qualified to deal with the matter, and I am sure that under his superintendence everything will be done that can be done to safeguard British commerce. With regard to the consular service and the point raised by my hon. friend the Member for St. Pancras, the report of the Departmental Committee to which he referred is engaging the attention of the Foreign Office; but the report was signed only on 2nd July, and it would be impossible to make any great change in the system in the course of a few weeks. I will take care that the matter is brought before the Foreign Office should they require to be reminded on the subject.

As I do not see the hon. Member for Ross-shire present, it is not necessary for me to follow him on the wide excursion he took from the North Sea to China, stopping at Egypt on the way. I have been asked whether I could throw any light on the general policy of His Majesty's Government in Somaliland. The hon. Member for Derbyshire suggested that we are animated, in the military operations still going on there, chiefly with a desire to please the concession holders; and, indeed, the hon. Member went the length of saying that that was the formally declared policy of the Foreign Office. I do not know on what information the hon. Gentleman bases that statement; but if it is on some Foreign Office document, he has entirely misunderstood it. Our policy in Somaliland is simple and clear. We find ourselves responsible for a protectorate there; we find the Mullah and his followers interfering with tribes to whom we have promised protection; and we have taken the only action open to us as a protecting Power—that is to say, to endeavour to the best of our ability to carry out our obligations. But I have to admit that when the hon. Gentleman expresses regret for the heavy costs which the expedition involves he has His Majesty's Government entirely with him. We deplore the expenditure which has already taken place; and that which I am afraid is still likely to take place. The whole subject is a very intricate and embarrassing one, but it is not more difficult to us than it has been to other civilised nations who have had to deal with these nomad tribes. It is impossible to strike them in any walled city or cultivated area, because they have no walled cities and do not practise cultivation. They vanish into their fastnesses whenever an attempt is made to strike them; and from the dawn of history down to this very day, these operations above all others have proved onerous, and, relatively to the difficulties in carrying them out, have been fruitless in a great measure to the nations who have engaged in them. But much as I regret the sacrifices which these operations have entailed, and are likely to entail in the future, we cannot, conformably with our obligations, withdraw our hands from the plough or turn our backs upon the task we have deliberately undertaken.

Then there were various questions asked with respect to the protectorates. The cost they throw upon the British Exchequer was deplored; and it was pointed out that although the revenue is increasing, the active expenditure for this year and next year is increasing at an even greater ratio. That is true, and, of course, it is to be regretted. But I would point out in the first place that the amounts involved are not relatively very considerable, and in the second place that it is premature to despair of these protectorates ever being a source of wealth to this country. I hold a very different view of their future. I do not say that next year, or the year after, or the year after that, we are going to have large favourable balances to show; but I do say that in this period of our commercial history more than any other it is urgent that we should develop markets that cannot be wrested from us by the hostile tariff action of any foreign Power.

There was a question asked by the Member for the University of Cambridge in regard to the experiment now being carried on in the migration of labour from Nyassaland to the Transvaal. My right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary is much more competent than I am to deal with this question; but I am in the position to say that the experiment is being most carefully watched by the Government and that every effort is being made to see that no injury or hardship is inflicted upon these migratory labourers. It is perfectly clear that if, as the right hon. Gentleman seems to suppose, there is a danger of these labourers having gone to the Transvaal under some misconception as to the character of the work which they were expected to perform, or as to the remuneration they were to receive, that is an evil, which, in the nature of things, will remedy itself. Those who return will report as to the remuneration they received and as to the character of the work they had to do, and as no pressure or compulsion is put upon them it will rest with the people of Nyassaland whether they continue to go to the Transvaal in the circumstances. It is manifest that if the labour is of a kind which is unsuitable to the inhabitants of Nyassaland there is no chance of any large number of labourers making the experiment of leaving their own country.

There was one question raised by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean as to the negotiations with the King of the Belgians with reference to what is known as the Lado enclave and other territories upon the left bank of the Nile. The House knows that all the difficulties in which we now find ourselves arose out of the arrangement come to in 1894 during Lord Rosebery's Government. I think Lord Kimberley was Foreign Secretary at the time, but I am not quite sure. An arrangement was made by which we were to have a strip of territory, or rights over a strip of territory, running north and south, connecting our southern protectorates with the north of Africa. The Belgians were to have a lease on the Nile which was to terminate with the life of the present King of the Belgians, and there was also a still larger portion of territory in perpetuity to the Congo State so long as the Congo State should either be under the King of the Belgians or should be an independent State or should belong to Belgium. No sooner was the agreement made than, under circumstances which were not very satisfactory at the time, and circumstances which are not very satisfactory to look back upon, the consideration which we expected and the consideration which the Belgians expected were lost. Subsequently the situation was complicated by the battle of Omdurman and the re-establishment of the rights of Egypt over the Sudan. That has produced a situation of considerable diplomatic perplexity. It would be difficult to say what are the rights of the King of the Belgians, but it would be as difficult to hold that he is wholly without any equitable interest in these regions at all. I should not like to say more on this subject of delicacy than that we are fully alive to the difficulties of the situation, and that the view which the House of Commons has expressed in the most formal manner as regards the methods of administration of the Congo region must undoubtedly form an element in determining the policy of this country.

So far as Zanzibar and Pemba are concerned, the question of slavery may be regarded, as the hon. Gentleman opposite said, as in a fair way of settlement. If language as sanguine can hardly be used in regard to the mainland, there is no doubt that slavery is dying there as fast as it can well die. As our influence extends slavery disappears. I believe in a few years the whole question will be a matter merely of historical interest. Even during the last few years there can be no question whatever of hardships or any of the graver evils, and in Zanzibar and Pemba the difficulty is not so much the freeing of slaves as the inducing the slaves to accept freedom. In many cases it is the master, who, against the wish of his slave and in order to obtain compensation, compels the slave to accept that which, if left to himself, he is reluctant to take. There is always a double and an opposite danger in these questions of transition from slavery to freedom. There is the danger that people on the spot will be too keenly alive to the difficulties incidental to transition. They see with too critical a gaze the undoubted evils which always accompany transition. They are apt to magnify those evils, and undoubtedly, they are occasionally irritated by extreme statements which are made with the best possible intention by those engaged in the task of attacking slavery on the platform or in the Press—a task which everybody in this House will admit is sometimes accompanied by a certain amount of exaggerated statement. The other danger is a danger much less serious, but a danger which we must not forget, because it is one which attaches to our own action. While the people on the spot are almost certain to see the difficulties attending the transition in an exaggerated light and on an extreme scale, we, on the other hand, firmly impressed as we are that there is nothing which can be worse than slavery, are perhaps too oblivious of the fact that any step which may be taken to mitigate the transition from the *status* of slavery to freedom is not an easy task. In this particular case, as the House is aware, great evil has been produced by turning some of the younger female slaves loose

upon society, and there has been an increase of prostitution in consequence, with all its attendant evils. But of these two dangers the second is by far the less, and probably there has been an incalculable amount of good done by the pressure which this House has found it necessary to exercise in order to overcome the *vis inertiae* which too easily besets officials on the spot.

The right hon. Member for Cambridge drew attention to the great land concessions in Uganda in connection with the trade in indiarubber. He pointed out that these were analogous concessions to those made in the Belgian and French Congo, and he asserted that to a certain extent in the French Congo and to a greater extent in the Belgian Congo those concessions had been accompanied by very great abuse; that something like forced labour had been established there; and not merely forced labour but forced labour accompanied by a great deal of cruelty and barbarity. I do not offer any opinion as to what has been or is going on in any other countries besides our own. That is not my business at the present time, but I can reassure my right hon. friend and the House that, as far as the concessions in Uganda are concerned, we are fully alive to the perils which naturally beset concessions of this character. We are watching them with the closest attention, and we think we are in a position to give a guarantee to the House and the country that they will be attended, at all events in Uganda, with no abuses of the kind to which my right hon. friend has called attention. I apologise to the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty for not following him in his remarks upon the Fisheries Commission, the administration of Egypt, or the general condition of Chinese trade. These are, no doubt, all questions of great interest and importance, but they have been discussed at great length in this House during the course of this session.

*MR. PIERPOINT (Warrington) said the object he had in view in drawing attention to the Island of Cyprus he did not expect to be accomplished now. The conditions this year as regarded Cyprus were abnormal. The grant-in-aid this year, instead of being some £30,000 was £87,000.

That was absolutely necessary, because Cyprus had just gone through a drought such as had not been experienced since the year 1873, five years before our occupation of the island. It was absolutely necessary that this country should supply that £87,000. He would not say that a profit was made out of the island, but he would say that a saving was made. The French saving this year was £40,000 to £41,000, but our loss this year was £47,000, or thereabouts. Since our occupation of the island the French saving had been somewhere not far off £1,000,000, whilst the English saving had only been about £170,000. It might be said that they could get this money from Turkey, if not out of the Cyprus tribute, but after Turkey repudiated its liability for the 1855 loan France paid her share, and so did England, and it was not until the accumulated money of Cyprus had been seized that France was repaid her advance, and the English Treasury was also repaid. The figures did not appear to be very large, but they should remember that they were dealing with a very small island with a population of about 240,000 people. The revenue of Cyprus he would roughly call £180,000 a year, and the result was that the island had to pay £60,000 out of that total, which was spent elsewhere. He asked the Colonial Secretary what would happen if under some old treaty Canada were bound to pay one-third of her revenue to be spent elsewhere? In those circumstances, how long would Canada remain a part of the Empire? He noticed in the Cyprus Report for 1901–1902 a quotation from an article by Sir Robert Lang Hamilton. He would read to the House the extract—

> "An entirely independent observer, Sir Hamilton Lang, K.C.M.G., lately the head of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Constantinople, who resided in Cyprus and knew it well, before the occupation, thus writes in a recent article in *Blackwood's Magazine*—'In Cyprus an honest administration has supplanted a corrupt *régime*. Financial order has taken the place of oppressive exactions. Liberty of the subject has dispelled the miasma of fanatical suspicion. Civilly, financially and morally the position of the people has been raised.'"

Broadly, he agreed with what Sir Robert Hamilton Lang had written on this matter. He had never denied that Cyprus had benefited from the present government of the island, but his desire was that the people of the island should benefit a great deal more, and enjoy their own taxation. He would read a few words from a letter by Sir R. Hamilton Lang written from Cairo in 1896. If Sir R. Hamilton Lang was worth quoting in the High Commissioner's Report he was worth quoting in the House of Commons concerning the tribute. He wrote—

> "Its enormity needs only one demonstration. It represents 10s. per head of the population, or £2 10s. per family. Fancy rich and fertile Egypt paying a tribute of £3,250,000 sterling to the Sultan, or rich England having to inscribe £19,000,000 on her Budget, payable out of the country to a foreign Power, and yet both countries could better afford double these amounts than a poor island like Cyprus its £92,000 of tribute. Sir Robert Biddulph was said to have calculated that the surplus revenues of Cyprus amounted to the last mentioned sum; but the details of the calculation were never published, and there can be no doubt that he lost himself in the maze of debased currencies in which the revenues of Cyprus were paid."

In the same letter he wrote—

> "This explanation is necessary to remove a false impression in England that Cyprus has been a pecuniary loss. Its possession has saved the Treasury from a bad debt which threatened to be £90,000 a year, but which, taking into account the grants-of-aid to Cyprus, has been reduced to £30,000 a year."

In another letter he wrote (1896)—

> "What, however, is clearly evident, and which interests the British taxpayer, is that by the possession of Cyprus the British Treasury has been enabled to encash more than £1,000,000 sterling of a bad debt with Turkey."

Sir Thomas Brassey wrote in 1878 or 1879—

> "It is impossible that the condition of Cyprus can materially improve so long as it remains subject to an annual tribute to the Ottoman Empire. England should pay the tribute, remit all injurious taxes, and make Cyprus a free port, and the Hong Kong and Singapore of the Eastern Mediterranean."

Sir Robert Biddulph wrote in 1880 to Lord Granville—

> "It is obvious that it is unreasonable to suppose that the revenue will at present admit of such an enormous subsidy to Turkey, and it is hard on a country which has a revenue which is double its expenditure to be compelled to postpone necessary public works, or to continue a number of taxes which press heavily on the people."

He urged the right hon. Gentleman to consider whether anything could be done in regard to this tribute. They could not wonder at the people of Cyprus being somewhat discontented when they had to pay such a very large sum of money, especially in view of the fact that they were far from being a very rich people. It was our desire when we took possession of the Island of Cyprus that it should be an object lesson to the peoples of the Eastern Mediterranean as to the beneficence and the benefits of the English Government. We had given them the benefits, but he wanted them to have the beneficence and justice of this country. This was a subject in which he took very great interest, and he should consider himself wanting in his duty if he did not avail himself of every opportunity that offered for bringing it before the House.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) said he felt inclined to congratulate his hon. friend the Member for Warrington on the pertinacity, but he would prefer to say the perseverance, with which he reverted to the question of the Cyprus tribute. He thought that since he had held his present office the hon. Gentlemen had made the same speech every year, and he had made the same speech in reply to his hon. friend; but he was sorry to say that they had not got much further. His hon. friend was now reinforced by the hon. Member for South Islington, who put forward very much the same argument. He did not agree with either of his hon. friends as to the circumstances connected with this tribute, but he did agree in their opinion that it constituted a very heavy burden on the island. We took possession of Cyprus at a time when this mortgage on its resources was estimated at £80,000 or £90,000 a year. If we had not taken Cyprus the people would not only have been paying this sum now without enjoying the collateral advantages of our rule, but there would have been no reduction of the tribute. Since we had been the owners of the island Cyprus had received a reduction in the shape of a contribution voted annually by Parliament for the benefit of the people. This reduction averaged £30,000 a year, and this year it had reached a sum of £87,000. But that sum did not correctly represent the position, inasmuch as £40,000 or £47,000 was in the nature of a loan, which it was expected would be repaid. The contribution this year had been raised owing to the unfortunate fact that Cyprus had been subject for two years to one of those exceptional droughts against which no science appeared to be of any avail. He did not regard the fact that the tribute as applied to the payment of the loan had been a saving to this country or to France, and he denied altogether that if the tribute had not been so applied either France or this country would have wiped out the loan as a bad debt, because they could have found other resources of Turkey, upon which they could have made a claim. He did not think, therefore, that this country stood in the position of having benefited directly or indirectly; on the contrary, we had been losers. We should have been richer if we had never taken Cyprus, and there were many persons who thought that it would have been better on all grounds if we had never taken possession of the island. But since we had taken it we were bound to do our duty by it. Our rule had been of enormous advantage to the people, and he hoped that the advantages they enjoyed would be still further increased. He could not, however, hold out any hope of a change with regard to the tribute, unless by means of negotiations we were able to transpose the loan and to obtain money at a lower rate of interest. Ever since he had been in office he had been in conference with the Foreign Office, endeavouring by one means or another to secure a certain alteration, but they had failed. They could not force their views on other parties concerned, of whom, unfortunately, there were many, and they had been unable up to the present time to come to a satisfactory arrangement. If they could do so no one would rejoice more than he should.

He had been under the impression that the irrigation works were a great success. He still hoped that they would prove of much utility, but the drought had come upon the island inopportunely, with the result that the reservoirs contained an insufficient supply of water during the late season. That was the cause of the state of the finances. He hoped that this exceptional state of affairs would soon pass away; for he believed that these works would not only be a great advantage to the island, but, inasmuch as they would pay their way, the fact would be a great encouragement to carry out other works of the same description. The other works of improvement, including the harbour at Famagusta, and the preparations for the railway, were being pressed forward as fast as possible, and the only reason which might prevent the authorities from undertaking works of further development was that in the present state of the finances he did not feel disposed to make a larger demand on the Treasury this year. If we had better resources the island would be able to carry on these internal improvements. The right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean had asked a question as to a Resolution about Turkish rule succeeding ours in Cyprus. He thought that the House need hardly trouble itself about a hypothetical statement like that.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that what was stated was that the Legislative Assembly of Cyprus had passed a Motion brought forward by a Mohammedan member, declaring that in the event of the retrocession of the island it should be retroceded to Turkish rule.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he did not know exactly how the case was presented to the Legislature of Cyprus, nor was he aware that it had been presented. He thought that the complaint arose through some statement of the Government, which said, as he believed correctly, that under the terms of the cession of Cyprus to this country it would not be in our power to transfer the island to any other country, but only to re-transfer it to Turkey. That was an entirely premature question. The Government had not the slightest intention to do so. At present he could not say what the scheme of the Legislative Council was, nor could he conceive of any Resolution which could have come forward as part of the business of the session. If the right hon. Gentleman wished to know what would happen in the extremely improbable event of the Government's deciding to give up Cyprus, he must go to the terms of the cession itself. He would find that we should be bound to offer it to Turkey. That was a matter of fact, and no Resolution could alter it in the slightest degree. The subject, however, was not one of the slightest practical interest. He knew nothing about the other Question raised by the right hon. Baronet as to the native members of the Upper House not being invited to attend Court since their swearing in. As to steamship and postal communication, he said that he was under the impression that already arrangements existed by which a subsidy was given to the Austrian Lloyd in order to improve the communication between Cyprus and Alexandria.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that the arrangement was with another company. The Austrian Lloyd would be satisfactory if it could be employed for a small subsidy. The existing communication was highly unsatisfactory.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he personally preferred that the communication should be by a British line, if that were possible. At the same time, something was done by a subsidy to improve the communication. He understood that what his hon. friend suggested was that something more should be done.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: The results are not satisfactory, and I hope the right hon. Gentleman will give his attention to the matter.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he would make inquiry as to what improvements had been made in the altered contract, and if he found it was capable of further improvement he would make it. It had been recognised by the islanders themselves, and by others, that a great deal had been done for the island. It was only one out of a great number of His Majesty's possessions, and we could not put on the Exchequer a disproportionate charge for it, but it could not be said that we had not done our part in endeavouring to improve the condition of the island since it came into our possession.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that as the reply of the Prime Minister in regard to the Congo Free State had been satisfactory, under the circumstances he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution agreed to.

CLASS VI.

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £393,521, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following services included in Class VI. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
1. Superannuation and Retired Allowances (including a Supplementary Sum of £4,000 . . .	342,914
2. Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions . . .	1,000
3. Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances .	646
4. Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	342
5. Savings Banks' and Friendly Societies' Deficiencies .	48,619
	£393,521"

CLASS VII.

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £61,082, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the following Services included in Class VII. of the Estimates for Civil Services, viz. :—

	£
4. St. Louis Exhibition -	50,000
5. Repayment to the Civil Contingencies Fund -	11,082
	£61,082"

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

"That a sum, not exceeding £783,000 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for expenditure on the following Army Services, including Army (Ordnance Factories), viz. :—

	£
11. Establishments for Military Education . . .	134,500
12. Miscellaneous Effective Services . . .	62,000
13 War Office, Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges .	331,500
Army (Ordnance Factories)	255,000
	£783,000"

Resolutions read a second time.

Seventh and Eighth Resolutions postponed.

Ninth Resolution considered.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) said he desired to call the attention of the House to the recent explosion at Woolwich, and to the absolute necessity of doing something to make the recurrence of such accidents impossible. He supposed they would be told that adequate compensation would be given to the victims of this explosion, or their representatives; but no amount of compensation could, under any circumstances, take the place of a breadwinner. Their duty was rather to prevent accident than to deal with compensation. He recognised that there must be danger in the Arsenal, but they were bound to minimise it as far as possible. He had heard it said that but for the precautions which had been taken, the loss of life would have been infinitely worse. The serious charge was made, and it was somewhat backed up by the finding of the coroner's jury, that the accident was preventable, and that in a measure the Government were responsible for it. The men were paid partly on their output, and on the Thursday morning of the accident, when the books were made up, these men, in order to make an extra shilling or two, rushed their work; and it was this bustle and hurry which was responsible for the explosion. The rate of wages paid was not sufficient to make them careful; they became very reckless, like soldiers in the field. He made an appeal to the Department to give the men a regulation rate of wages and so prevent them bustling and hurrying round on the day the books were made up. Major Barlow at the inquest was asked whether this piecework did not tend to increase the danger, and he replied that it was difficult to say; that something must be done to encourage the men to give their best service. His experience was that if the men were bustled, they did not give their best service to the nation; the best way to get good service was to pay them a decent rate of wages, and trust to their honour. He thought the present hospital was too far away. It took eighteen or twenty minutes to get these poor men to the hospital on the railway. He pointed out that there was a site within the reach of the danger zone where a comparatively cheap building for hospital purposes could be put up, and to which injured men could be taken in a very few minutes. Of course the present hospital could remain where it was. Then, would the House believe it, the injured men were charged a shilling a day for maintenance in the hospital as a result of an accident in the Arsenal! That was penny wise and pound foolish, because the chances were that the men would ask for their discharge from hospital before they ought to be, in order to get back to their wives and families, and their work. He thought that that system ought to be speedily altered, and the right hon. Gentleman would earn the gratitude of the men if he abolished the charge altogether.

Another matter was that there was always a feeling among the men that they were not properly treated in regard to wages. It was said, in answer to a Question put the other day, that the wages ranged from 32s. to 36s. a week, but on July 5th they were only paid 24s. 10d. a week. Again, in the Arsenal there was a difficulty in the men getting properly recognised for services rendered. When a man was put to a machine he acquired skill, and machinists ought to be kept at that work and their pay advanced to 30s. a week. There was also the question of fellowship work. Suppose a mistake was made on account of some order given, and the result was that damage was done, instead of the man really responsible for the damage being charged, the whole cost of the damage was charged against the fellowship. Complaints frequently reached him that the standard of inspection in the Arsenal was more critical and more severe in regard to work turned out in the Arsenal than in regard to the work done by private contractors. Generally the contractors complained that they were subject to a heavier and more critical examination of their work than was the case with the articles manufactured in the Arsenal. That was positively not so.

Another point he thought worthy of consideration was that where they had men of proved capacity, the heads of the departments should be encouraged to have more sympathy with them than was shown at the present time. That would lead to excellent results, because more work was obtained from men who had over them a sympathetic head than if he were a martinet and a disciplinarian of the first water. He also wanted to know whether the Department was thoroughly content with all the experiments, whether those experiments were made under the orders of the War Office, and whether the returns were sent in giving the time and materials expended upon them. Those particulars were necessary, because there was a suspicion abroad that a good many experiments were made at the whim of those with control of the departments, in which case expenses must be cut down in one department to make up for loss in another department. Returns ought to be made of all experiments, giving their cost and the authority under which they were made.

Another question to which he desired to call attention was that of the payment of the men. The Government were going to institute a new system of premiums, and were doing the proper thing in encouraging men to take an interest in the output If they started this premium system—and they might do so anywhere except in the danger department—they ought to fix as the standard a decent living standard to begin with, and encourage the men to go on. Lower wages were accepted in the Arsenal because men were in receipt of a pension, and he thought that it was very hard for the Government to practically take those pensions into account, and then cut the wages of other men down in proportion. It frequently happened that workmen were offered a starvation rate of wages, and had to accept it or go without entirely. He remembered paying a visit to a Government department where women were getting eleven shillings a week, and when he remarked the rate was "absolute starvation," he was told that on the other hand it was "constant." The Government should realise that the wages often paid could not keep a single man in decency, to say nothing of a married man with a family. Every year in London there was given out to people at work, including paid Government employees, no less than £232,000 to supply them with medical treatment, and they had to have these medical comforts simply because——

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): Will the hon. Member say between how many people this £232,000 is shared?

*MR CROOKS said it might be spread over any part of five millions, but his complaint was that owing to the lowness of wages many men were unable to get proper medical treatment for their wives and children. Many of them, when upon applying for a medical order were asked the amount of their wages, would reply one guinea, and in order to satisfy the requirements of the Local Government Board the relief was given in the form of a loan. But the hard fact remained that more than a quarter of a million sterling was spent in a year on medical treatment for able-bodied men and their wives and families in consequence of the low rate of wages paid. The Government, moreover, were the worst offenders in that respect. They had passed a pious resolution on the subject of these low wages, but unfortunately children could not be fed on pious resolutions. What was wanted was more money to be spent on the people who stood in most need of it. Only a few weeks ago there was a case of a labourer leaving home in the morning and having to send in a neighbour's wife to look after his wife who was in dire distress, and the total sum that could be left in the house was fivepence. That instance showed that a man, even in regular work and earning one guinea a week, could not leave anything for the moment when it was needed the most. His argument was that the money of the country was spent in the wrong way. If the Government would only give a little more consideration to the men at the bottom, there was plenty of room to cut a little off those at the top. The lower grade men never had a chance. What the House wanted badly was a Minister of Industry who would know something about the toilers. The fact remained that it was bad distribution of the money that compelled men to work at so low a wage. The Secretary for War might say that the the state of things had gone on for a long time, but he wanted the right hon. Gentleman to start a new record and let the men at the bottom of the tree get a little ease and comfort. With that he would move a reduction of the Vote by £1,000.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£783,000,' and insert '£782,000.'"—(*Mr. Crooks.*)

Question proposed, "That '£783,000' stand part of the Resolution."

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth) said he desired to raise a point of interest with his constituency, as it dealt with the question of pay in the Army Ordnance Department. They had the Army Ordnance and the Navy Ordnance Department side by side.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I am not aware that these wages can be discussed on this Vote. The Army Ordnance Department is a department in which ordnance stores are kept.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Gentleman is not in order in raising the question on this Vote.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS: If that is so I have nothing more to say.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he had one or two questions to put on this Vote. There was a recent Report of the Public Accounts Committee which dealt with this Department. It said:—

> "Your Committee have had before them the correspondence between the War Office and the Treasury, which arose out of their Sixth Report of last year. That Report dealt with the great waste that had been discovered at the Ordnance Factories, and with the question of the management of those factories. The

Committee observe from the correspondence that the Chief Superintendent seeks to show, in a long memorandum to the Director-General of Ordnance, that the amount of waste which had actually taken place was not so great as the Report in question would indicate. The Committee had no evidence before them on the subject besides that of the Chief Superintendent, who himself furnished the main facts upon which they formed their opinion. Those facts are not materially affected by the correspondence with the Treasury, and the Committee entirely agree with the view expressed by that Department in their letter of 22nd of April last, and adhere to their Report of last session. In the answer of the War Office to that letter, reference is made to the large amount of pay necessary to secure the services of thoroughly competent civilian managers. Your Committee are of opinion that, looking at the vast sums which will assuredly be wasted year after year under incompetent management in an enormous manufacturing business like the Royal Arsensal, it would be true economy to offer salaries to persons placed in control of the several departments commensurate with those given in civil life."

He would like to ask the Government whether their attention had been called to that Report, and whether any steps were to be taken in the direction suggested. There were large outside establishments paying high salaries, and although the War Office succeeded in obtaining officers at comparatively low salaries, it was very doubtful whether that policy was in the interest either of economy or the State. Another little matter to be mentioned on that Vote was a recent circular issued which asked officers commanding battalions whether they wanted to have their bayonets repaired, and if it were the case whether they could spare them in order to be sent back to the contractors. In several cases officers commanding battalions had sent back their bayonets under the impression that they would not be wanting them for long, but it proved that a long time elapsed before they got them back again, and it was found they were sent by water. That was a small matter worthy of attention.

MR. BRODRICK said the circular mentioned was new to him, and he had not seen it. He would, however, make inquiries. With regard to the appointments at the ordnance factories, there was no question that many officers of experience had been tempted away from the ordnance factories by the large salaries offered by private firms. The best men should certainly be chosen, but the difficulty was that the pay and other emoluments, by way of legitimate commission and so forth, given by private firms made it very difficult for the Government to compete with them. He did not wish to say anything disrespectful of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee, but the main point on which they based their decision that large sums of money were lost to the public in the ordnance factories was the consideration of the treatment of refuse, and they declared, he thought a little hastily, that the loss to the public amounted to £250,000. On behalf of the officials engaged he must say that he thought that deduction of the Committee a little unfair, because it assumed two premises, neither of which was correct. The first was that the system under which refuse could be utilised so as to obtain from it all the metal that was thrown away had been in use in private firms, and might have been in use in the ordnance factories, for ten years past. But it had been shown that the treatment of refuse had only very recently been brought into use in private firms, within the last five years. Secondly, there was a very considerable error as to the amount of the loss, which did not amount to more than one-fifth of the sum the Committee mentioned. He could only say that it was the desire of the War Office to get the best and the most practical men for the ordnance factories, and he had been in communication with the Treasury with a view to ascertaining what would be the largest sum they would be justified in paying for a superintendent. He recognised that the work was exceedingly onerous, to some extent complicated and extremely responsible, and, as everybody knew, unless he was well served the superintendent of a small arms factory could not exercise proper control. He did not intend to make any change, except to bring the chief superintendent up to the War Office, not to reside there, but to be there on stated occasions, to confer with the Financial Secretary, so that they might have his own official statements from him and not the statements from a person in an inferior position. He was sure the House would not desire him to say more at the moment.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) asked what reply was given by the Treasury to the right hon. Gentlemen's representation as to salary.

MR. BRODRICK said they were disposed to take a practical view of the situation; but, of course, as every one knew, in the public service payments were not made according to results, and it was difficult to make one single exception. He had once put that fact before a late Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose reply was that he had saved the country millions, and that if he was to have a commission he would be a cheap man at £100,000 a year, and that he should expect that if he went into the employ of a private firm. The great difficulty at the present time was that there were a number of great firms who had simply to consider the commercial value of the man they employed. The hon. Member for Woolwich had brought forward what he conceived to be the danger of employing men on piecework in dangerous work. He had been in communication with the chief superintendent at Woolwich on the subject, and he was awaiting his reply; but he understood that the view the hon. Member took, that piecework was not applicable to dangerous work, was one which the officials might be able to adopt. As to stoppages, the system used to be that men were paid full pay in hospital, but made a contribution of a shilling a day for hospital charges. That held good for all who came into the service before August, 1900. Men who had entered since were placed on half their scheduled pay, which was quite a different thing to their real earnings, and nothing was deducted for hospital charges. He had never heard any complaint of that system, and he believed it was considered a fair arrangement.

MR. CROOKS pointed out that the men were worse off now, because a man earning 24s. a week only got 12s., whereas formerly he would get 17s.

MR. BRODRICK understood that half of the rate a man was earning without stoppages was very often as much to his advantage as full pay with the stoppages, but he undertook to look into the point, and also into the allegation of undue expenditure on experiment. The complaints of severity of inspection were interesting as giving the other side of the case sometimes presented to him by contractors, who were apt to say that the inspectors were more severe upon their work. With regard to the wages of the lowest class of employees the Government were anxious to deal fairly with these men and at the same time to remember that they were trustees of the nation's money.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said that as a representative of a town which had more to do with ordnance factories than any other town in the kingdom, he might perhaps be allowed to say that the best opinion was always entertained by private firms of the military officers in charge of ordnance factories. Their high standard of honour and great courtesy, and the desire to do all they could within the limits of their function to meet the views of the private manufacturers, were fully recognised. It was his duty to impress upon the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War the absolute necessity of setting his face against any extensions at the ordnance factories at Woolwich. It would not be politic to extend these factories if it were calculated to interfere with the private trade of the country. There was no greater mistake than to concentrate all the work from the Army and Navy at Woolwich. The Secretary of State would remember that he himself, and his predecessors, had encouraged the setting up of a costly plant in Sheffield, and elsewhere, by private persons in order that the Government might have a second string to their bow besides the ordnance factory. It was very important that however zealous the superintendent of the ordnance factory might be, and anxious to show that an extension of the factory might be of advantage to the public service, that he should do all he could to afford remunerative employment to this very costly plant put down at the Department's express instance. There was one matter that pressed very hardly upon the working men in Sheffield, and that was, the holding back of orders by the Government until the very last moment, and then throwing a large order into the hands of the contractors. This was attended with considerable evil, because it caused an inflation of trade, and a large number of workmen were attracted to the town. The time came when workmen were discharged, and at the present moment relief works were in progress by the corporation of Sheffield on account of the number of men unemployed at the various industries.

MR. WEIR complained that the right hon. Gentleman had said nothing in respect to the question of machinery, which the hon. Member for Woolwich raised. He protested that men, when they had mastered a particular machine, should be taken away and put upon another, and never be allowed to make any progress. He hoped the matter would be looked into, and the men, when they had mastered a machine, would be kept to it, and be enabled to turn out perfect work. With regard to the experiments that were being made no one knew whether they were being made on behalf of the foremen of the works or the Government. These experiments might be necessary, but they should know what the cost of them was going to be. The Government should also commence these men at a living wage and raise them from that, and not start them at a starvation wage.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) said he understood the right hon. Gentleman to lay down the principle that it was impossible for the Government of this country to pay the heads of its great departments the same salaries which private firms paid to the gentlemen at the head of their great departments. He desired to know whether the appointment of military officers to important departments at Woolwich was due to the fact that their services could be secured without payment of such high salaries as would have to be paid to civilians, and whether it was considered that part of their payment consisted in the prestige of the appointments, prospect of honours, and so forth, or upon what system the value of their services was calculated. He thought the country would view with alarm the theory that the Government could not afford to employ the best men because they could not afford to pay them the best salary in competition with private firms. The business done by the Government was so much greater than that done by private firms, and this would be a very dangerous principle to lay down. Perhaps his noble friend would explain just what the principle was on which those salaries were based.

LORD STANLEY said he did not think there was any reason to anticipate that they would have any difficulty with the Treasury in fixing the salary to be given to the head of the factory establishment in accordance with the view of all those who wish to see a man paid a proper salary for the responsibility imposed upon him. At the same time they must recognise that there was a difference in the case of a salary paid to the head of an ordnance factory for constant work, which was not bound by the amount of output, and which was, so to speak, a permanent situation, which many men would be glad to take for a salary lower than they would be willing to take in the case of a private firm where the work might not be so constant or the employment so permanent. Therefore, they would see that there was a perceptible difference between the situation of those two men. At the same time he might say that his right hon. friend was in communication with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he had no doubt that they would be able to arrange for such a salary as would secure the best available man for this particular post, whether military or civilian. That was the only answer he could give to his hon. friend. The hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Sheffield put forward a proposition with which he was in entire agreement, to the effect that, in time of peace they should preserve in the factories a large measure of extension for time of war, and that, in addition to having their own ordnance factories they should be careful not to put all their eggs into one basket, but should have private firms who, like themselves, were kept alive in times of peace by the orders which the War Office gave them, and who would be, in time of war, an enormous increase of strength. This would result in excellent economy, because, in time of war, they would find that large power of extension without further payment, instead of that extension which only came by degrees, and for which they had to pay so heavily during the late war.

The hon. Member for Woolwich, whose remarks had been added to and repeated by the hon. Member sitting next to him, asked a question about the machinists, and said that some machinists, after having been taught their work, were put back to sweeping the floors. That had been done because those persons had been found unfit for the work which they had been given to do. After making careful inquiries he could find no instance of the kind which had been mentioned. There was no instance of taking an accomplished machinist from his ordinary work, but where a machinist had been tried and found wanting it had been found necessary to reduce him. With regard to payment for damages, although it did appear hard on the face of it, if they relieved these men altogether from responsibility for negligence in their work it would be hardly fair to the State. He quite admitted that it might be hard in some cases that the men should suffer for mistakes, but where mistakes could be proved to be pure mistakes in most of those cases the fines had been remitted. In cases where it could be proved that there had been negligence they had some right to impose punishment for that negligence. He did not know that there were any other points which had been raised except those into which his right hon. friend had promised the fullest inquiry.

Mr. BROADHURST (Leicester) said he could not follow the logic of the noble Lord. The hon. Member had complained that the heads of departments did not appear to be satisfied with their stipends.

Mr. ARTHUR LEE said he had suggested nothing of the kind, for he merely made an inquiry as to what was the system upon which the salaries were based.

Mr. BROADHURST said that if the speech of the hon. Member opposite meant anything at all, it meant that the heads of those departments were worth more money than they were receiving. The noble Lord opposite had said that with regard to these positions there was no difficulty in finding men.

Lord STANLEY: I did not say that.

Mr. BROADHURST said that was what he understood the noble Lord to state.

Lord STANLEY said he did not say that at all; on the contrary, he said they were difficult to find.

Mr. BROADHURST said the noble Lord stated that the heads of these departments were receiving a satisfactory salary, or they would not stay, and he pointed out the enormous advantage these men at present possessed because they had a certain salary paid to them, no matter what the condition of the work of the department might be; or, in other words, he said their stipend did not depend upon the output. In many private firms the heads of departments had great competition to face, and they had to show profits, and upon their capacity to show profits depended their retention in their positions. The noble Lord's argument was that all was well and satisfactory, and then he suddenly left that position and said that they were about to put themselves into communication with the Treasury to see what increase could be made in the salaries of the heads of departments and what amount could be paid. If all was satisfactory and well and they had the best men doing the best work, and the War Office were satisfied with their position, why on earth should they apply to the Treasury for an increased salary for a class of men who were satisfied with what they were receiving at the present time. He did not see the logic of the position at all. He sincerely trusted that the Treasury would refuse this increase unless a substantial case was made out in justification of that increase. There was waste enough at the War Office already, for waste was constantly going on there in all branches of its work without this further unnecessary increase in the stipends of the heads of those departments.

Colonel NOLAN (Galway, N.) said that upon this question one of the arguments put forward was that military men could be got for these positions at about half the price of good civilians. No doubt the position of superintendent of any of these departments, if they only gave £300 a year, would command plenty of applications. If they put a civilian at the head of a department he must have a certain amount of experience and prestige, and a certain market value in the engineering world; and to get a man of that character would cost at least double as much as a military man — he had heard the salary put at £2,500. The Secretary of State for War had put forward the argument that there should be a certain amount of military and naval men employed. He did not know where the War Office were to get their good technical advice. If they had a manufacturing civil service trained up, no doubt they would be just as faithful to that service as the military men, but even Woolwich was not big enough to make a profession of that kind. Therefore they had either to train up a certain number of military men, or go into the engineering market. It was most important to have a few men in the Army and Navy on whom they could rely possessing sufficient technical knowledge and whom they could trust. Such men ought to work with the workmen in the department ten or fifteen years before they were appointed as heads of those departments, and in every country it had been found necessary to have a certain number of military and naval men employed in the great arsensals. It would be a pity to depart from that position. He did not think they should be exclusively military or naval men. They would never get a good civil engineer on the same terms as they would get a military man, who had other propects in his profession, including pension. He instanced the case of Sir Andrew Noble, who, if he had remained in the Government service, would probably have got about £1,000 a year. He left the artillery service and joined Lord Armstrong, and he was popularly supposed to have done extremely well. In regard to tenders, the hon. Member said they could never have a thoroughly healthy system until the public knew more about the contracts. The amount of power the Director of Contracts had was enormous, and ought not to be permitted. He thought the contracts and the tenders ought to be published.

Mr. BRODRICK: It is out of order to discuss contracts now. There is no provision for contracts in this Vote.

Colonel NOLAN said the hon. Member for Sheffield had complained that they did not get enough contracts for that town. He did not see how he could reply to that without commenting on the subject of contracts.

Mr. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said his hon. friend the Member for Woolwich had referred to the question of a minimum wage. They thought something should be done in this matter. They did not ask the right hon. Gentleman to make any definite promise at present, but they thought he should give an assurance that he would consider the matter There were 600 men who had no hope of any increase at all, and they were receiving wages of 21s. to 24s. a week. He thought the House would agree that men should not be in the position of receiving such wages without any hope of increase. The right hon. Gentleman had promised to receive a deputation from the clothing department. That was the proper thing to do in order to ascertain the feeling of the workpeople themselves. If he would promise to receive a deputation from those men he and his friends would be satisfied, but to treat the request that had been made by the hon. Member for Woolwich with silence was not satisfactory.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 146; Noes, 54. (Division List, No. 250.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (*Worc*

Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Charles Curtis(*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Forster Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond.*
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gordon, Maj. Evans(*T'r H'ml'ts*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld G. (*Midlx*
Hardy, Laurence(*Kent, Ashf'd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Horner, Frederick William
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, John Grant(*Yorks. N R*
Lee, Arthur H(*Hants. Fareham*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott(*Hants.*
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham(*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Nicholson, William Graham
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H(*Sheffield*
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wodehouse, Rt Hn E R. (*Bath*
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Govern, T.
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway N.*
O'Doherty, William
Paulton, James Mellor
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, Herbert L (*Cleveland*
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Thomas, F. Freeman(*Hastings*
Thompson, Dr E C(*Monagh'n, N*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Crooks and Mr. Shackleton.

Resolution agreed to.

First Resolution considered.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) complained that the Government had refused to pay £700 or £800 a year in lieu of rates on Government property in Dublin, and had also deprived them of the right to test the validity of the refusal in the law courts. Ireland received in lieu of the rating of Government property the sum of £50,000, although it was quite true that in recent years there had been a decided increase of that contribution, largely because of the building of barracks in Ireland. But whereas in England there was a Treasury valuer to compute the amount which the Treasury should pay, they in Ireland were entirely at the mercy of a Government department, which seemed to be completely under the thumb of His Majesty's Treasury; and although they had to pay half of the official's salary, they had no control over his appointment, or over the principles under which he acted. Consequently, it might be assumed that he allocated in lieu of rates on Government property in Ireland the least sum that he could allocate. For instance, Phœnix Park, in Dublin, which was the largest park in the United Kingdom, was rated at £1,700. This park was acquired under the Act of Union, although it had been entirely paid for by the Irish Parliament, and the English Government had no more right to it than to the watch which he had in his pocket or the coat upon his back. But they had also taken all the advantages of the sites of the Viceregal lodge, of the Chief Secretary's Lodge, of the Under-Secretary's Lodge, the headquarters of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and for the hospital. Again, they had recently allowed Wellington Barracks an entrance into the Park, and indeed had converted this park, which had been grabbed under an Act in 1869, into one vast military training ground, although it had been a common for the people of Dublin for thousands of years. Under a decision of a case in England, called the Brockwell Park decision, the Government had, by secret communication, directed their valuer in Dublin to strike out of his valuation of the sums due in lieu of rates, the sum of £1,700 for Phœnix Park, the share of which falling to the Dublin County Council would have amounted to £700 or £800. What made this matter more extraordinary was that when the County Council system for Ireland was inaugurated the Dublin County Council, which represented the old Grand Jury, were deprived of the use of the Hall in the Four Courts, where the Grand Jury had met for fifty years, and compelled the Dublin County Council to build a hall of their own at a cost of £5,000 or £6,000.

Let him examine for a moment the grounds on which this extraordinary decision had been come to. The decisions of the law courts in regard to rateable hereditaments were very conflicting, and very frequently irreconcilable, but a sort of rule had been arrived at, according to the length of the Lord Chancellor's foot, and of which no one would speak with any great respect or veneration. The County Council of London had a place called Brockwell Park, for the advantage of the citizens of London, and the rating authority of Lambeth asserted that that was a rateable hereditament, and that the London County Council should pay rates thereon. The Queen's Bench decided that it was rateable, but the County Council went to the House of Lords, where it was decided that the Brockwell Park was not a rateable hereditament, on two grounds—first, that the County Council of London drew no revenue whatever from Brockwell Park, which had been dedicated by a private Act to the ratepayers of London for ever. They charged no tolls and got no revenue, and therefore the test of rateability on that ground disappeared. The other principle of the decision was that there was no tenant of this park, and that the London County Council could not in any sense be considered to be a tenant of it. Let the House have regard to those decisions in the case of the Royal parks in Dublin. Was the King not a tenant of his own park and messuage in Ireland? And if the King was not a tenant, the Lord-Lieutenant, as his bailiff, in a legal sense might be considered to be his tenant for all purposes. Could it be said also that the Government did not derive profit out of the park? To the great inconvenience of the public, the Board of Works in Ireland turned into the park droves of cattle, from which they derived an annual grazing rent of over £700. So that the two principles of the decisions on which the Brockwell Park case went were not applicable to Dublin. In the latter case a tenant existed, and an income existed in the shape of the grazing rents. On what principle, then, should the Government, by an official decision which they had refused to allow to be tested in the law courts—which some clerk in the Treasury, whom they could not get at, had given—deprive the ratepayers of Dublin of the contribution from the Government in lieu of rates which they had employed for more than fifty years? He had written to the late Chancellor of the Exchequer reasons on notepaper in regard to this point, for he had always found the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol very fair in his attitude of mind towards Irish rating questions; but unfortunately the right hon. Gentleman was then on the point of resignation, and it was very proper and natural, perhaps, that he should not have regarded Irish rating rights in Dublin as of very great importance, at a time when he was fighting a rearguard action with the Colonial Secretary. He had taken privately the utmost pains to convince the Treasury of the justice of the Dublin case, and on two occasions he had asked questions in the House upon it. The first answer given to him was by the present Postmaster-General. Of course, the great case made out by the Government was that the Brockwell Park decision applied to England and Scotland, and that therefore there was no injustice done to Ireland. He had tried to get, but failed, how much Scotland and England had been robbed of by that decision. The Postmaster-General said—

> "As regards the rating of the Phœnix Park, the Treasury have decided that in future no contribution in lieu of rates shall be made in respect of such portion of the Phœnix as is unenclosed and open to the public, or of the bailiff's residence and certain lodges. I regret that, by an oversight, the local authorities were not informed of the reason of this change. No alteration has been made in the valuation of the park, nor has the Treasury made any legal decision on the subject. They have, however, always reserved to themselves the right to decide in the last resort upon any disputed question in connection with the contribution voluntarily made by His Majesty's Government in lieu of rates in whatever part of the United Kingdom it may arise."

It was argued that this payment of rates on the part of the Government was a voluntary act—an act of grace. What would English Members of Parliament say if the £500,000 sterling contributed in England were suddenly withdrawn from the local authorities without even the courtesy of an intimation that it was to be done? Would it then be said that the payment was an act of grace on the part of the Government. The whole idea was absurd. In England there were officials and clerks receiving salaries to the amount of £2,329 per annum to look after this "act of grace." What an extraordinary kind of grace it was that required so many officials to look after the "alms." The matter showed the vice of permitting these things to be decided by some obscure person at the Treasury—if anybody at the Treasury could be obscure. An additional absurdity was the fact that the Treasury, while withdrawing the pastoral portion of the park from rating, had consented, in the teeth of the Brockwell Park and other cases, to continue to pay rates upon the Viceregal Lodge, the Royal Irish Barracks, and other buildings, which no hypothetical tenant would ever take. If the decision turned upon the hypothetical tenant, let the Government put a placard in the window of the Viceregal Lodge, and see how much rent they would get. Nobody would take it as a gift. And what about a hypothetical tenant for Woolwich Arsenal? The Treasury therefore were in the absurd position of continuing to pay rates on a losing property which required expenditure to keep up, while depriving the County Council of rates on a profitable property. Such a position appeared to be not only illegal but inconsistent and repugnant. When he brought the matter before the House in October last year and asked the amount which had been stopped by the Treasury in England and Scotland in this connection, he was first told he could be given the details privately and then referred to a return from which, if he had been a skilled arithmetician—which he regretted to say he was not—he could spell out some information for himself. That return, however, was not totalled, and was useless for his purpose. His contention was that the Government had, without inquiry, committed an injustice, basing their action on a case which was really not analogous. Because both Brockwell Park and Phœnix Park were parks, it did not necessarily follow that the law which applied to one applied equally to the other. There was no resemblance in either occupiership or revenue between the two, and to use the Brockwell Park decision as a means to deprive the Dublin authority of rates was most unjust. More barracks had been built elsewhere, and consequently more rates would have to be paid in respect thereof, and the idea of the Treasury was to rob Ireland as far as possible, and prevent her getting any increase of rates. If this was a question of law—as the Government admitted it to be—the fair thing would be to let the matter be tested on a petition of right. That a clerk in the Treasury should of his own volition deprive a public authority of £700 or £800 a year could not be tolerated, and no reply on the part of the Government would be satisfactory unless it was agreed to remit the matter for the decision of a competent court of law.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham) said the question as it presented itself to the Treasury was a far simpler matter than it appeared to be to the hon. and learned Member for North Louth. If the matter was looked at in an impartial manner there was really no question of robbing anybody, or of treating Ireland with injustice. The rule which had been applied to Phœnix Park was exactly the same as had been applied in London to Hyde Park, St. James's Park, and others, and the rates involved amounted to about the same sum as in the case of Phœnix Park. The principle of the matter was this. As a matter of constitutional law the Crown was not liable to pay rates, but in recent years it had become the practice for the Crown to pay rates as an act of grace and favour. Having ascertained to the best of their ability the amount of the rate for which a private owner or occupier would be liable, the Crown as an act of grace paid the same amount to the local rates. In the Brockwell Park case, on which the hon. and learned Member had argued with his usual acumen, it was held that as the park was held for the public use and was entirely used for public purposes there was no rateable occupier, as the County Council were merely the custodians or trustees for the public. That being so, the Treasury held that as the County Council was not a rateable occupier neither was the Crown, and as the Crown simply paid as an act of grace the sum of which a rateable occupier would be liable they ought not to continue to pay as they had been doing. That was the whole of the case. The Treasury would continue to pay the rates for which a private occupier would be liable, but a decision having been given that in such a case there was no rateable occupier—[Mr. HEALY: There was no such decision.]—the Crown were entitled to say that they would not pay where a private owner would not. That was the case for the Treasury, and he could not add anything to it.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, further Consideration of the Postponed Resolutions stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [23RD ALLOTTED DAY] [6TH AUGUST, EVENING SITTING] REPORT.

Order read, for further Consideration of Postponed Resolutions:—

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said it was wrong in principle and unfair in practice that the Government should be its own valuer for rating purposes. There ought to be some mode of appeal, it might be to the County Court Judge, or to an independent arbitrator, but if the Government were to say arbitrarily that they could or would not be rated, and that if they were to be rated they would be their own valuers for rating purposes, that was unfair in the extreme, because the deficit in that case had to be paid by the general body of ratepayers, which was a very great hardship, seeing that the property got all the benefit of local government. The Secretary to the Treasury said this was Crown property, and that the principle which had been applied to Phœnix Park had been applied in the case of Hyde Park, and in similar cases. But many wrongs did not make a right, and it was a purely technical point to say it was Crown property. It was, in effect, the property of the State.

MR. ELLIOT said the Crown paid rates only in cases where, if the property were owned or occupied by private individuals, rates could be lawfully exacted, but in the case of the Brockwell Park or the Phœnix Park it had been found that there was no liability to pay rates, and therefore the Crown refused to be liable.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT pointed out that although the Crown was under no liability to pay compensation in the case of one of His Majesty's ships running down a merchantman they had always paid in such cases.

MR. ELLIOT: Exactly; but if it was held that there was no liability in the case of a privately owned ship in similar cases the Crown would not accept any liability.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said the Crown had taken up not a legal position but a moral and equitable position. The Government and the private individual were not in an analogous position. The private individual had limited means; the Government had the whole means of the community behind it. The whole community could pay where the private individual might not have the resources; for many years the Crown had paid in respect of its property, and had thereby set up a standard. Although not primarily liable where the property was not expressly named by statute, yet to withdraw the contribution on a technical ground was at variance with the higher moral standard which the Government had itself set up.

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) said the case of Phœnix Park in respect of rating was very different from that of Hyde Park and other parks in London and elsewhere, because while in the case of the latter the whole of the park was available to the public as a recreation ground, in the case of the former a large portion was cut off for the purpose of grazing, and thus the inhabitants of Dublin lost the advantage of the park by so much. The whole of Phœnix Park was in the county of Dublin, and therefore the County Council should derive the benefit of the rates from it, but this they did not do. There was a considerable revenue derived by the Crown from Phœnix Park for grazing, and he did not think his hon. friend was far out when he estimated it at £700. They all knew that it was a matter of favour on the part of the Crown to pay these rates, but having paid them so long he would suggest to the hon. Gentleman in charge of these matters (Mr. Elliot) that it would be well for the Government to reconsider the matter and continue the grants in lieu of rates.

MR. ELLIOT altogether denied that in this matter there was any Irish grievance at all. There happened to have been a decision by the House of Lords in the Brockwell Park case, to the effect that the park, being held by virtue of a statute for the public benefit, was therefore not rateable. The Crown had always paid rates upon an ascertained, definite principle. Where the courts of law had decided that certain property was rateable, then where that kind of property was held by the Crown the Crown would, as a matter of favour, pay rates. The Crown said that, although not bound by the law, they would pay rates on that kind of property on which rates were payable, but they would not pay rates on that kind of property on which rates were not payable. It was a question of the law of the land.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) expressed his sorrow that the Government should take up this position. The circumstances of the two countries were quite different. He was a ratepayer, both of the city and county of Dublin, and he could assure the House the rates were burdensome to a degree. If there had been no decision in the Irish Courts exempting the Phœnix Park, and it was conceivable that if the matter came before them they might take a different view to that which had been taken in this country, he thought it was very inconvenient at this stage of the session to make a change which would so seriously affect the ratepayers of the county of Dublin.

Resolution agreed to.

Second Resolution agreed to.

Third Resolution considered.

MR. WEIR called attention to the unsatisfactory state of the Highlands of Scotland. Referring particularly to the Congested Districts Board, he complained that it was the policy of the Scottish Office to hoard up the money available.

He was anxious to hear from the Lord-Advocate that night whether the negotiations were likely to result in the Scottish Congested Districts Board getting control of any of these farms. A statement had been made that the sites set aside at Stornaway had not been taken advantage of. Why was it? Because they were available only for cottars who had broken the law! The Hon. Member next proceeded to complain that the Congested Districts Board were accumulating unexpended balances, when the money could be advantageously laid out, and he expressed a wish that the Lord-Advocate would visit the Island of Lewis and see the condition of the houses there, a condition which not so very long since led to a serious outbreak of typhoid fever, one result of which was that a school had to be closed for a period of six months. [The hon. Member was almost inaudible in the Press Gallery throughout this speech.]

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£366,072,' and insert '£365,972.'"—(*Mr Weir.*)

Question proposed, "That £366,072 stand part of the said Resolution."

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrewshire, W.) said he was convinced, from what he read in the Reports of the Congested Districts Board, that the Congested Districts Board was proceeding on sound lines for the permanent relief of the Highlands and Islands. He had been struck by the careful manner in which it carried out its duties. He was not inclined to criticise the moderation of the schemes which they carried out; on the contrary, he thought they were entitled to some credit because they did not rush into a series of haphazard schemes. Their policy was to permanently, and not merely temporarily, relieve the congested districts in which they took action. They had done substantial work, and in the past year had made purchases of land in the Island of Skye. They were dealing with the question on broad lines, and it was to be regretted that hon. Members opposite had blocked a Bill now before Parliament which would have enabled the Scottish Office to carry out certain proposals of the Congested Districts Board.

MR. WEIR said he had communicated to Lord Balfour of Burleigh his earnest desire that the Bill should be charged, and the hon. Baronet was not therefore entitled to accuse him of blocking it.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said that according to the reports of the Board itself only £15,000 had been actually spent on the main purpose of the Board during the four years of its existence—namely, the migration of crofters from the congested districts to larger holdings in other districts. At the same time the Board had accumulated £86,000 out of their annual grants. What were the purposes for which the grant was made? First, in regard to agriculture they included the provision of seed and agricultural implements and dairy utensils, and then land was to be purchased upon which cottars, migrated from congested districts, could settle. The Board was established chiefly for the purpose of increasing the holdings and settling the people on new crofts, and yet, during the five years of its existence, out of £175,000 it had expended only £35,000 on these purposes, and as £20,000 had been taken from the crofters, the amount so spent was really only £15,000. As to the erection of fishermen's dwellings, not a single case had been carried out. It was true that twenty-seven fishermen's dwellings were proposed at Stornaway, but the transaction had not yet been completed. Although the Board had the most ample powers, it had not spent a single penny on the erection of fishermen's dwellings in the Island of Lewis, the most congested district in Scotland.

And, it being Ten of the Clock, Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order 15, put forthwith the Question necessary to dispose of the Resolution then under consideration.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 158; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 251.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V.C.W.(*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, RtHn.J.A.(*Worc.*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, CharlesCurtis(*Antrim,S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes,Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,RtHn Sir J.(*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,PhilipS.(*Warwick,S.W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs,HnA.G.H(*City of Lond*
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Henry D (*Shrewsbury*)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton,Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Mid'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent,Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson,SirA.(*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J.(*Midd., Tottenham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys,Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(*Denbigh*)
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson,JohnGrant(*Yorks.NR*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(*Bristol,S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Reginald J.(*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(*Bute*
Murray,Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Nolan,Col.John P.(*Galway,N.*
O'Doherty, William
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert(*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lt. Col. Thos. Myles
Seely,Maj.J.E.B(*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson,DrEC(*MonaghanN*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirC.EH(*Sheffield*
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley,H.(*Ashton und. Lyne*
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(*Bath*

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Farrell, James Patrick
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hobhouse, C. E. H.(*Bristol,E.*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, SirWilfrid(*Cornwall*)
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Govern, T.
Moss, Samuel
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Malley, William
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel,Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Spencer,RtHnC.R.(*Northants*
Thomas,DavidAlfred(*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson,Henry J. (*York, W.R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Weir and Mr. Harmsworth.

Resolution agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER then proceeded, in pursuance of Standing Order 15, to put forthwith the Questions, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of each Class of the Civil Services Estimates, the Navy Estimates, and the Army Estimates.

CLASS II.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class II. of the Civil Services Estimates."

The House divided:—Ayes, 162; Noes, 60. (Division List No. 252.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (*Worc.*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. Geore H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Mid'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'rd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Sir T.
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N R*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Nolan, Col. John P (*Galway, N.*
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n*
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H (*Sheffield*
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr, Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Govern, T.
Moss, Samuel
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (*Northants*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman- (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*
Ure, Alexander
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, George (*York, W.R.*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (*York, W.R.*)

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Bell and Mr. Toulmin.

Class III.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class III. of the Civil Services Estimates."

The House divided:—Ayes, 165; Noes, 59. (Division List No. 253.)

AYES

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dix'n
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gordon, Maj Evans (*T'r H'mlets*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G (*Mid'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N R*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt Hon Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur

Murray,Rt.HnA.Graham(*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray,Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Nolan,Col.John P.(*Galway,N.*
Pease,HerbertPike(*Darlingt'n*
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie,RtHon.Chas.Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.Thos.Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*
Seely.Maj.J.E.B.(*IsleofWight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson,DrEC(*Monagh'n,N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirCEH.(*Sheffield*
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley,H(*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(*Bath*
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir. Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones,William(*Carnarv'nshire*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Govern, T.
Moss, Samuel
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Pirie, Duncan, V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Samuel, Herbert L.(*Cleveland*
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer,RtHn.C.R(*Northants*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomas, F.Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Cremer and Mr. Luke White.

Class IV.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class IV. of the Civil Services Estimates."

The House divided:—Ayes, 168, Noes, 59. (Division List No. 254.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(*Leeds*
Balfour,Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury,Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,V.C.W.(*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain,RtHnJ.A.(*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharles Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig,Charles Curtis(*Antrim,S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes,Hon.Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.Sir J.(*Man'r*
Finch, Rt Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,PhilipS.(*Warwick,S.W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(*City of Lond*
Godson,SirAugustus Frederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Gordon,Maj Evans-(*Tr. Hmlts*

Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond- (*Cambs.*
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Ld. G (*Midd'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, William F (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N R*
Lee, Arthur H. (*Hants, Fareham*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (*Kent*
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinb'rgh, W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Doherty, William
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n*
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Thornton, Percy, M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H (*Sheffield*
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*)
Horniman, Frederick, John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Govern, T.
Moss, Samuel
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt. Hn C. R. (*North'nts*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, George (*York, W. R.*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (*York, W. R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Priestley and Mr. Whitley Thomson.

CLASS VI.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class VI. of the Civil Services Estimates."

The House divided:—Ayes, 169; Noes, 60. (Division List No. 255.)

AYES

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*

Banbury,Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,V.C.W(*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A(*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Cagtain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharles Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig,CharlesCurtis(*Antrim,S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants., W*
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,PhilipS.(*Warwick,S.W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(*City of Lond*
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,J.(*Londonderry,South*
Gordon,MajEvans(*T'r H'mlets*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs.*
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton,RtHnLd.G.(*Midd'x*
Hardy,Laurence (*Kent,Ashf'd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath,ArthurHoward(*Hanley*
Henderson,Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T.(*Denbigh*
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence,Sir Joseph(*Monm'th*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson,JohnGrant(*Yorks,NR*
Lee,ArthurH(*Hants. Fareham*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(*Bristol,S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb.,Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (*Kent*
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Reginald J.(*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver,SirLewis(*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop,James (*Stirlingshire*
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ.(*Walth'mstow*
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(*Galway,N.*
O'Doherty, William
Pease, Herb. Pike (*Darlington*
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B(*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson,Dr.E C(*Monagh'nN*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,ColSirC.E.H(*Sheffield*
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley,H(*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(*Bath*
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*]
Bell, Richard
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Govern, T.
M'Laren, Sir Chas. Benjamin
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.

Spencer,RtHn.C.R.(*Northants*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomas,F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, George (*York, W.R.*
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Moss and Mr. Rigg.

CLASS VII.

Outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of Class VII. of the Civil Services Estimates, agreed to.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

Outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of the Navy Estimates, agreed to.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

Outstanding Resolutions reported in respect of the Army Estimates, agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS [6TH AUGUST].

Resolutions reported.

1. "That, towards making good the Supply to be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, the sum of £100 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

2. "That, towards making good the Supply to be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, the sum of £75,392,969 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

Resolutions read a second time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the First Resolution.

The House divided:—Ayes, 167; Noes, 60. (Division List No. 256.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bagot, Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R.(*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,V.C.W.(*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(*Birm.*)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig,CharlesCurtis(*Antrim,S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,PhilipS.(*Warwick,S.W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(*CityofLond.*
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,J.(*Londonderry,South*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(*Midd'x*
Hardy, Laurence(*Kent,Ashf d*)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Henderson,SirA.(*Stafford,W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard,J.(*Midd., Tottenham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J Eustace
Jeffreys,Rt.Hon. Arthur Fred.
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson,JohnGrant(*Yorks.N R*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(*Brisol,S.*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver,SirLewis(*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James(*Stirlingshire*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,Rt.HnA.Graham(*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray,Col.Wyndham (*Bath*)
O'Doherty, William
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick

Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson, Dr. E C (*Monaghn, N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H. *Sheffield*
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Rendall
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Norman, Henry
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Ure and Mr. Charles Hobhouse.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Second Resolution.

The House divided:—Ayes, 163; Noes, 59. (Division List No. 257.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, W. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dix'n
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond.*
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, South*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs.*)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Healy, Timothy Michael

Heath, Arthur H. *Hanley*)
Henderson,Sir A.(*Stafford, W.*
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Horner, Frederick William
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard,J.(*Midd., Tottenham*)
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence,Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson,John Grant(*Yorks N. R*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Rt. Hn. Walter(*Bristol,S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Reginald J.(*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver,Sir Lewis(*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,David J (*Walthamstow*
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,Rt Hn A. Graham(*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie,Rt Hon. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col S. G. Stopford
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.Thos.Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely,Maj.J. E. B(*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thompson,Dr. E C(*Monagh'n N*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,Col Sir C. E. H(*Sheffield*
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond,Rt Hon Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley, H.(*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wodehouse,Rt. Hn. E. R.(*Bath*
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William(*Carnarv'nshire*
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
O'Doherty, William
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Robson, William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer,Rt Hn. C. R.(*Northants*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomas,F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Pirie.

¶ Bill ordered to be brought in by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Arthur Elliot.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

"To apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and two and one thousand nine hundred and four, and to appropriate the supplies granted in this session of Parliament," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time to-morrow.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS EXPENSES BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said he thought that the Committee should have a word of explanation in regard to Clause 1, which they were unable to obtain on the Second Reading. That Clause provided that £1,790,000 should be issued from the Exchequer to defray the cost and purchase of buildings, and the works specified in the Schedule. In the Schedule it was said that the additional sum of £500,000 was the revised estimate under the Public Buildings Act of 1898, presumably due to the increased cost of the work. There was also a sum of £80,000 which arose from the difference between the sum granted under the Act of 1898 and the sum estimated to be available, and it was said that that was due to depreciation in securities in which the money granted had been invested. That £80,000 required some explanation, because they had it on evidence in the Fourth Report of the Public Accounts' Committee, that there had already been realised a loss of £110,000, and that there remained an amount of £1,288,000 Consols, which had been bought at an average price of 109½, so that there remained an impending loss, not of 16 per cent., but of 18 per cent., on the Consols not yet realised. He hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be able to explain how the sum due to depreciation of securities was only estimated at £80,000, when there had already been a loss of £110,000, and an impending loss of £320,000. There was another important subject involved in the investment of these funds. He submitted that temporary funds ought to be invested in temporary securities, because the latter were free from the fluctuations which had resulted in so disastrous a loss.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) said of course it was very easy to be wise after the event. There was no doubt at all that, as his hon. friend had suggested, if the money required for these public buildings had been invested in Treasury Bills they should not have had to deplore so large a loss as they had to deplore at the present time. But it must be remembered that when this money was invested in Consols, Consols were not considered to be the speculative stock which his hon. friend thought they were now. The investments were made at an average price of 109½; but the average price of Consols for the three years 1897-8-9, during which investments were made, was one or two points higher. Personally, he had had nothing to do with the investment at that time, but he could find no fault with what had been done by the Treasury. If the money had not been appropriated for the purposes of public buildings, it would have gone naturally to the reduction of the National Debt and it would have all the same been invested in Consols. So far as the public purse was concerned, he did not think, therefore, it had suffered. His hon. friend had asked why money, likely to be required soon, was not invested in temporary investments? There was then a very small amount of Treasury Bills in the market as compared with now; and they desired to keep Treasury Bills as a favourite security with the public. It was therefore not desirable that the Government should come in as large purchasers. It was very different now, when there were large numbers of Treasury Bills on the market.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not explained the difference between £80,000 in the schedule as due to depreciation of the securities, and the £110,000 mentioned in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

*MR. RITCHIE said that the loss would have been considerably more than £80,000 if it had not been reduced by the dividends they received on the stock. That accounted for the difference mentioned by his hon. friend.

MR. LOUGH said that the First Estimate for Public Buildings Expenses was £2,550,000, and the revised Estimate was £3,050,000, or a difference of £500,000. How was it that the First Estimate of 1898 was so far wrong?

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) said that the additional sum of £500,000 was required for public offices in Whitehall, public offices in Westminster, and for the Science and Art Department in South Kensington. In the case of the Whitehall site, now known as the new War Office, it was found, after the original Estimate had been made up, that it was necessary to acquire a further plot of land. In addition to that, the cost of labour and materials in the building trade had risen very largely since the time that h e former Bill had been introduced.

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said that there had been no addition to the wages in the building trade in London for the last eight or nine years, and he could not see how a rise in wages could possibly have affected this contract.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH said that the Estimates which appeared in the Bill of 1898 were necessarily only rough Estimates, and there were no contracts entered into before the Bill was introduced into Parliament. He was informed that the rise in wages took place at the end of 1898 or the beginning of 1899.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said that perhaps it might be as well if there were no contracts.

Mr. CREMER said that the right hon. Gentleman had been imposed upon, although he believed himself to be strictly accurate.

Bill reported without Amendment; to be read the third time to-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Addenbrooke's Hospital Bill; Poor Law (Dissolution of School Districts and Adjustments) Bill, without Amendment; Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill; Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill; County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill; Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill, with Amendments.

That they do not insist on their Amendment to—Wood Green Urban District Council Bill, to which this House have disagreed.

That they have agreed to—Amendments to Brighton Corporation Bill [*Lords*], without Amendment.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Jeffreys (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Schedule:—

*Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.) said the Amendment he had placed on the Paper was to omit from the Bill the Coercion Act of 1881 and the amending Acts of 1886 and 1887. The Act was passed for five years; but in 1886 it was continued to the end of 1887, and was afterwards renewed for five years. Whatever reason there might have been for the passing of this Act, there was no reason now for its continuance. It was notorious that there was more crime in one English county than in the whole of Ireland. The question was, Do you trust Ireland or do you not? If you trust Ireland you ought to remove these insulting Acts from the Statute-book. They had heard that a brighter dawn was coming for Ireland. They had also been told that the loyalty of the Irish people had been fully expressed on the occasion of the King's visit; but if that were true, why was not this Act removed? He should like an explanation from the Chief Secretary as to the reasons why the Government considered it necessary to keep a Coercion Act on the Statute-book; and as a protest against its continuance he begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, to leave out lines 25 and 26."—(*Mr. James O'Connor.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) said he could not pretend to bring any novel matter into the debate on this well-worn theme. Without touching on agrarian questions, the Government held that in many parts of Ireland these Acts were a salutary precaution. It was common knowledge that they were brought in by Mr. Gladstone, that each Government in turn had been urged to repeal them, and that no Government had thought it right to do so. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose had spoken of the Peace Preservation Act as in no sense anything but a measure of police precaution. It was not so many days ago that hon. Gentlemen who agreed with the hon. Member had urged upon him the necessity of restraining a meeting at Rostrevor. Ireland had recently raised two corps of Yeomanry, who would be armed. The only practical argument of the Irish Members was no longer applicable. He need say no more, but if hon. Members were not satisfied with the length of his speech he would refer them to what he said last year.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said the great charm of membership of that House was its surprises. The latest surprise was that the Nationalist Members, having implored the Irish Government to apply the law equally in various parts of Ireland and not to allow arms to be carried by Orangemen on 12th July for the purpose of firing upon Irish Catholics in a Catholic district, this was now urged as a reason for opposing the Amendment before the House. Because on this one saint's day—the only saint in the Protestant calendar in Ireland—when the incense of gunpowder was offered up, they suggested to the Government that as these people had all the rest of the North of Ireland it might be reasonable that they should be prevented from going into a peaceful Catholic district and firing their guns. That was solemnly advanced by the Chief Secretary as a reason for keeping all Catholics armless. On an occasion like the present, when a plain demand had been made for something like equality, the fact that the right hon. Gentleman should have strayed into an historical pastoral on the Irish question was a fresh illustration of the charm attaching to his character, but, having regard to the great exertions he had recently been making in connection with the Land Bill, the speech he had just delivered could only be attributed to the overwrought condition of his constitution.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.) said that when the Bill was before the House in a previous stage he protested against people in Ireland being prevented from carrying arms. Moreover the Act was not carried out in an impartial spirit, because Orangemen in the North of Ireland were allowed to carry arms and to work havoc in peaceful districts and maintain a reign of terror at certain periods of the year. They had heard a great deal about the peace and order and the spirit of loyalty which prevailed in Ireland at the present time; but if all that were true, why were the Government continuing this measure on the Statute-book? To him it was absolutely inexplicable. The only conclusion he could come to was that Irishmen were not as loyal as British newspapers represented them to be. The Chief Secretary having performed to some extent a great act of national pacification, should now withdraw this Act. An hon. friend of his the other day put a Question to the right hon. Gentleman with reference to the withdrawal of a licence from a gunsmith who was managing the business on behalf of his mother. In his opinion that licence was withdrawn because the man was a Nationalist. He objected to a Nationalist being treated in that manner, and he would, therefore support his hon. friend.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.) said it was not necessary for him to recapitulate the arguments against the continuance of this measure. He contended that the Act was not administered impartially in the North of Ireland. If it were, the authorities ought to be able to ascertain whether a man was carrying arms in the North just as they were able to ascertain it in the South of Ireland. No man had, however, ever heard ot a raid for arms in the North of Ireland. The Chief Secretary himself admitted that Ireland was in a peaceful state; and he contended that, as the Act was not administered impartially throughout Ireland, it ought to be abandoned. He hoped his hon. friend would proceed to a division.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR said he regretted that the Chief Secretary did not at least hold out some hope that he would consider the desirability and justice of removing this obnoxious and offensive statute. His hon. friends were perfectly correct in stating that the Act was not impartially administered. There was never any attempt to search the house of an Orangeman for arms, nor was an Orangeman ever arrested for carrying arms. An Orangeman might possess as many revolvers and rifles as he could afford to buy; but no warrant would ever be issued against him. If the Act were impartially administered he would not be so much opposed to its continuance; but, as it was, he regretted very much that the Chief Secretary did not hold out any hope that the continuance of such an offensive, insulting, and outrageous Act would be limited.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway) thought the Peace Preservation Act might very well under present circumstances be repealed. Application for permission to carry a rifle or a revolver had to be made to the resident magistrate, and recently one of his constituents, although his recommendation was signed by all the leading magistrates in the city of Galway, had his application refused. The resident magistrate who refused the licence was well-known in Ireland as one who did not dispense favours to Nationalists, and his record had been brought before the notice of the Chief Secretary on more than one occasion He could give another case, similarly recommended, which also was refused, the only possible ground of refusal being the fact that the applicant was a Nationalist. When Acts of Parliament were thus administered, how could any respect for the law be expected in the West of Ireland? He sincerely hoped the right hon. Gentleman would look into this matter, and see whether fairer treatment could not be meted out to these people.

MR. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.) was understood to quote a case showing that the Act was not administered fairly as between different classes of the community.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.) said that no reason whatever had been given why the most crimeless country in the three kingdoms should be treated so differently in this matter from England or Scotland. Not only so, but the North of Ireland was treated exceptionally as compared with the rest of the country, and it would be interesting to know why the police were less active in the North in the matter of fire-arms than in the South. In the South of Ireland if a farmer on the Nationalist side wanted a gun for the necessary protection of his farm he had practically to go on his hands and knees to get a licence from the resident magistrate. The suggestion that some limit should be put on the duration of this Act was well worthy of consideration, because as long as Ireland was treated differently in this matter from the rest of the United Kingdom Irishman would feel, no matter what was said about their loyalty, that the English Government were not prepared to trust them with a right enjoyed by all other subjects of the King.

Question put—

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 121; Noes, 38. (Division List, No. 258.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John.
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc.*
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S (*Warwick, S. W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs.*)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'rd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (*Hanley*
Heaton, John Henniker
Hermn-Hoodge, Sir Robert T.
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Keswick William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, NR*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Majendie, James A. H.
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Nicholson, William Graham
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n.*
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George

Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Caldwell, James
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Lough, Thomas
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
O'Doherty, William
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Toulmin, George
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (*York, W. R*)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. MacVeagh and Mr. James O'Connor.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time to-morrow.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked whether the effect of one of the Amendments made by the Lords would be that two schools could not have one body of managers. He understood that there were at present many cases in London where two or three schools had the same body of managers.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of EDUCATION (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) said that when the Bill was before this House questions were raised as to whether a local education authority might create one body of managers for all its schools, and whether one school might have two bodies of managers. The Bill as amended by the Lords would secure that there would be one body of managers, and not more than one body for each individual school—unless it was thought desirable by the local education authority to group schools.

Lords Amendments agreed to.

SHEEP SCAB BILL.

[Third Reading.]

Order for the Third Reading read.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said most of the powers given by the Bill were sufficiently given by the present law, and he was afraid this Bill might be harshly enforced by the County Councils in the case of small owners of sheep. But he and others who had doubts about the Bill recognised the fact that the highest authorities in this House on the subject were in favour of the Bill. In the face of that feeling they had not ventured to obstruct the Bill. He represented a constituency consisting largely of miners, many of whom had a few sheep. The power to enter sheds and other places to inspect and examine sheep was extended by this Bill to cases where the existence of the disease within thirty-six days was not suspected, and that power might be harshly enforced.

Mr. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock) did not apprehend that the difficulty would arise which the right hon. Bart. had suggested. The Act would cause some inconvenience to agriculturists, perhaps, but the very valuable measures which had been taken by the Board of Agriculture with reference to other diseases had caused inconvenience, though the result had been, on the whole, to conduce much to the healthy state of flocks and herds. He felt, therefore, that it was worth some sacrifice of convenience and some expense on the part of the agriculturists to deal with sheep scab in an efficacious way. He believed the County Councils would be considerate in the administration of the Act. Although it might be somewhat drastic, he believed it would be effectual in stamping out the disease. This was only another proof of the great efforts which the present and previous Government had made in dealing with and stamping out disease.

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): said that the powers of the Board in Section 22 of the parent Act did not cover the matter dealt with in Clause 1 of this Bill, which was devised for the better enforcement of the original Act in preventing the spread of disease in any manner. The other point raised by the right hon. Gentleman applied only to the existence of sheep scab in the counties, whereas this Bill proposed to prevent it appearing altogether. The Borough and County Councils had hitherto done their work very well, and the Board considered that they would be able to carry out this Bill without hardship.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said his main objection to the Bill was that it was legislation by reference; although it might prove inconvenient to persons who only kept a few sheep, he would not oppose the Third Reading.

Bill read the third time and passed.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (NO. 2) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that this clause was generally approved by everybody, and it carried out the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the housing of the working classes, presided over by himself. But the extension of the loan was not applicable to certain districts, such as those where the mines were being rapidly worked out, and he had no doubt that the Act would be administered by the Local Government Board with due consideration.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, E. Toxteth) said there were localities which already had powers under local Acts, and these might find themselves in a less advantageous position than those which would come under this general law. He hoped if these localities tried to get a Provisional Order to put them on the same terms as other localities, the Local Government Board would regard these Provisional Orders benevolently.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that there was another suggestion—that the Act might be made retrospective, as had been done in some cases in Ireland.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said that the point raised by the right hon. Baronet was important. It was obvious that they could not extend the duration of the loan where the conditions would not justify it in the matter of security. As to the suggestion of the hon. Member for Liverpool in regard to Provisional Orders, these would be considered in a very friendly way by the Department. Those localities which had tried to do their work under local Acts should not be penalised by those which had waited for the passing of this Bill.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE asked what was the opinion of the President of the Local Government Board on the Amendment which had been submitted to him to introduce the Public Health Acts.

MR. WALTER LONG said he could not accept the Amendment, because the Public Health Acts would not apply. This was a Bill to remove some practical difficulties of minor importance; and if they attempted to deal with the graver questions serious difficulty might arise.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said that at present it was difficult to get closed buildings demolished. A justice had to be satisfied that they were dangerous to the public health; and that was often a very difficult thing to prove. There was a very strong reason why some simpler method should be adopted to secure the demolition of closed houses.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that there was an understanding that Clause 12, would be dropped; and his hon. friends and himself would have to adhere to it.

MR. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvonshire, Arfon) said there was a strong reason why the clause should be added to the Bill, because it simply meant an extension of the Small Dwellings Act. It appeared to him to be a very reasonable clause; but if the President of the Board of Trade wished to omit it, he would not prejudice the Bill by opposing that course.

MR. WALTER LONG said that the clause might be useful in carrying out the object the hon. Gentleman had in view; but there was a general desire that it should be struck out, and that the whole subject would be dealt with next session.

Schedule amended.

Bill Reported, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

REVENUE BILL.

Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [30th July], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Debate resumed.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) said that when the Bill was last before the House the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised to issue an explanatory Memorandum. That promise had been carried out, and the Memorandum certainly bore out the statement that the Bill made concessions to the users of various articles. The only point he desired to make was with regard to the remission of the duty on molasses. When the Bill came into operation there would probably be large stocks on hand, and he would suggest that, following the precedent of the corn duty, a drawback should be given where it could be shown the stocks were in store on a particular date. There could be no possible difficulty on the part of the Excise authorities, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to make such a modification.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, N.) agreed that the Memorandum issued by the Chancellor of the Exchequer had put the Bill in a very different light from that in which many Members were previously disposed to regard it. Clause 1, which was a very clumsy and ill-drawn clause, stated that molasses used for feeding cattle was to be free from duty, and it took power to make such molasses unfit for human food. He thought that was a strange provision, and asked whether it was worth while making this distinction between one sort of molasses and another. He also asked whether this concession was not contrary to the Brussels Convention, and whether certificates of origin would not be necessary. It certainly could not be argued that molasses was not a sugar product within the meaning of the Convention. As to the other provisions of the Bill, he understood they were all in the nature of exemptions or remissions, and probably the reason they were not included in the Finance Bill, as they ought to have been, was that they would have made that measure altogether unwieldy.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) thought the attitude adopted by hon. Members to-night justified his action in adjourning the discussion and promising an explanatory Memorandum. There was a good deal of force in the contention that these matters ought to be dealt with in a Finance Bill, but hon. Members would see that if they were all included it would be impossible to pass that measure within a reasonable limit of time. The provisions in the Bill with respect to molasses were dependent in some respect upon the passing of the Sugar Convention Bill, and therefore it was not possible to include them in the Finance

Bill. The hon. Member for West Islington feared that some difficulty might arise in connection with the Convention. That was not the case, as, if the Bill was passed, no duty whatever would be levied on molasses, and the question of certificates of origin or of breach of the Convention could not possibly arise. He had been asked to extend the provision to all molasses. What he was proposing was to put the legislation of this country in the same position as that of every other country in Europe with respect to molasses. This was the only country where a duty was levied on molasses used for feeding stuffs. He was sure he would carry the House with him in endeavouring to relieve the agricultural community of taxation which was not borne by their competitors in any other country. He understood that in anticipation of this Bill, the West Indies were preparing to send a large supply of molasses for feeding purposes to this country. He pledged himself to secure, by whatever arrangement he could, that molasses introduced duty free should not be molasses other than molasses used for feeding stuffs. As to traders getting rid of their present stocks before the Act came into operation, he was convinced that, if there was some slight loss incurred, that would be compensated for by the much larger business that would be done ultimately. He proposed to put down an Amendment providing that the Act should not come into force till September 1. He should be prepared to prolong that date if necessary, but he hoped that by that time those in possession of stocks would have been able to get rid of them. He believed the Bill would be cordially welcomed by those interested in the matter. All the other items in the Bill were concessions to demands which had been repeatedly made on the Treasury, and he hoped the measure would now be read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES BILL [LORDS].

Order for Third Reading read, and discharged.

Mr. Ritchie.

Bill recommitted to a Committee of the whole House in respect of Clause 1.

Bill considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

ISLE OF MAN CUSTOMS BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for the Third Reading read.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he had considered the question of the application of the Sugar Convention Bill to the Isle of Man, and whether it would not be necessary to introduce a separate Bill dealing with the matter.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, N.) understood the object of the Bill to be to apply to the Isle of Man our system of sugar duties and the method of collecting them. Under the Sugar Convention Bill a different method was to be adopted, and he asked whether that would not alter the circumstances with regard to the Isle of Man.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) was understood to say that he was advised, though the legal authorities were not altogether agreed, that we could prohibit sugar being landed in the island contrary to the Sugar Convention. If the law did not give them power to prohibit sugar being landed it would be the duty of the Government to consider between now and next year what could be done in the matter. He was unable this session to ask the House of Commons to pass any other Bill dealing with this matter. Whatever might be the correct legal position of the Isle of Man he was perfectly certain that no difficulties were likely to arise in future with regard to this measure.

Bill read the third time and passed.

Whereupon in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 11*th August*, 1903.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:

1. Borough Funds.
2. Local Government (Transfer of Powers).
3. Metropolitan Streets.
4. Public Offices (Dublin).
5. Pistols.
6. Poor Law (Dissolution of School Districts and Adjustments).
7. Patriotic Fund.
8. Sugar Convention.
9. Naval Works.
10. Ireland Development Grant.
11. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2).
12. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3).
13. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4).
14. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5).
15. Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1).
16. Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2).
17. Water Orders Confirmation.
18. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).
19. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8).
20. Local Government Provisional Orders (No 13).
21. Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order.
22. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).
23. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5).
24. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7).
25. Perth Corporation (Tramways) Order Confirmation.
26. Aberdeen Corporation (Tramways) Order Confirmation.
27. Metropolitan Police Provisional Order.
28. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1).
29. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2).
30. Irvine and District Water Board Order Confirmation.
31. Rothesay Corporation Order Confirmation.
32. Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows and Orphans' Fund Order Confirmation.
33. Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London).
34. Gas and Water Orders Confirmation.
35. Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation.
36. Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation.
37. Wick and Pulteney Harbours Order Confirmation.
38. Addenbrooke's Hospital.
39. Post Office Sites.
40. Scottish American Mortgage Company, Limited.
41. South Lancashire Tramways.
42. Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway.
43. Great Southern and Western Railway.
44. St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street).
45. Baker Street and Waterloo Railway.
46. Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland.
47. Walker and Wallsend Union Gas.
48. Blackheath and Greenwich District Electric Light.
49. Derby Gas.
50. Dudley, Stourbridge and District Tramways.
51. Poole and District Electric Traction.
52. Tynemouth and District Tramways.
53. Middlesbrough Corporation.
54. Taff Vale Railway.
55. Sutton Coldfield Corporation.
56. City and South London Railway.
57. Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply.
58. Romford and District Tramways.
59. Wigan Corporation Tramways.
60. Woolwich Borough Council.
61. Bournemouth Corporation Tramways.
62. Alexandra Park and Palace.
63. Chatham and District Light Railways.
64. Willesden Urban District Council.

66. Exeter Corporation.

65. Barry Railway.

67. Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways.
68. Worthing Corporation Tramways.
69. Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (Various Powers).
70. London County Council (General Powers).

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

71. London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway.
72. Watford and Edgware Railway.
73. Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways.
74. London United Tramways.
75. Birmingham Corporation.
76. Manchester Southern Tramways.
77. Castleblayney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time).
78. Gosport and Fareham Tramways.
79. Great Western Railway.
80. Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railways (Steam Vessels).
81. Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway.
82. Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity.
83. Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements.
84. Kip's Patents.
85. Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways.
86. West Bromwich Corporation.
87. Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways.
88. South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways.
89. Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company.
90. Bath Corporation Water.
91. Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway.
92. Bournemouth Gas and Water.
93. Carmarthenshire Electric Power.
94. Bristol Corporation.
95. Maryport Harbour.
96. Manchester Corporation.
97. Somerset and District Electric Power.
98. Birmingham District Tramways.
99. Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time).
100. Beckenham Urban District Council.
101. London County Council (Money).
102. London County Council (Tramways and Improvements).
103. Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway.
104. Fife Electric Power.
105. South Shields Corporation.
106. East Ham Improvement.
107. Wood Green Urban District Council.
108. Brighton Corporation.
109. Lochnell Estate.
110. Pentillie Estate.

SAT FIRST.

The Marquess Townshend—Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [H.L.], Liverpool University Bill [H.L.], Bradford Corporation Bill [H.L.], Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.], Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.], Salford Corporation Bill [H.L.], Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [H.L.], Commons Amendments considered and agreed to

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill, Read 3^a, with the Amendments and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.], Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [H.L.], Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.], North-Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [H.L.], Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [H.L.], Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill, [H.L.], South-Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [H.L.], Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Gateshead Corporation Bill, Stroud and District Tramways Bill, Cork Harbour Bill, Ebbw Vale Improvement Bill, Erith Tramways and Improvement Bill, Great Central Railway Bill, North-Eastern Railway Bill, Sheffield Corporation Bill, South Yorkshire Joint Railways Bill, Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill, Dover Corporation Bill, Hainault Forest Bill, Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill, Coventry Electric Tramways Bill, Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill, Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill. Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Order Confirmation Bill, Lerwick Harbour Improvements Act, 1877, Amendment Order Confirmation Bill. Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

PETITIONS.

HIS HIGHNESS MAHENDRA MAHARAZA MADHAVA SINGH.

Petition for redress of grievances of; of Inhabitants of Cambridge; Westminster; London; and other towns in England; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRAMWAYS ACT, 1870.

Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Act, during the session of 1903.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the six months ending 30th June, 1903, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1871; together with the reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into.

FOREIGN IMPORT DUTIES.

Statement of the rates of import duties levied in European countries, in the United States, in Japan, and in China, upon the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdam.

GAS AND WATER ORDERS.

Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, during the session of 1903.

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Return, in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of railway servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions during the month of December, 1902, on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours at a time, or who, after being on duty more than twelve hours, were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours rest.

RUSSIA, No. 1. (1903).

Despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa forwarding a report on the riots at Kishiniev.

ALIEN IMMIGRATION (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of alien immigration; with minutes of evidence and appendix. Vol. I. Report.

SUPERANNUATION (CIVIL SERVICE) (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of superannuation in the Civil Service; with minutes of evidence, appendices, and index.

PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND).

Seventy-first Annual Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with appendices, for the year ended 31st March, 1903.

INDIA (AGRICULTURAL BANKS).

Report of the Committee on the establishment of co-operative credit societies in India.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. Return showing the number of persons whose names have been placed upon the Teachers' Register under Regulation 5 (2) (*a*) of the Teachers' Registration Regulations, and the qualifications of each one so registered which, in the opinion of the Council, has qualified the person to be so registered:

II. Statement of schemes for the formation of education committees, approved during the month of July 1903, by the Board of Education, under section 17 of the Education Act of 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Papers (Command Nos. 1564, 1613, 1659, and 1675) of Session 1903) showing—

Name of local authority;
Name of the council;
Number of members on the education committee;
Number of members on the education committee who are necessarily members of the council;
Number of women who are necessarily on the education committee;

Forms of educational experience to be represented on the committee;
Recommendations or nominations (if any).

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND), 1902.

Part I. Criminal Statistics.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PURCHASE OF LAND (IRELAND) ACT, 1891.

Return of advances under the Act during the year ended the 31st March 1903.

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Report by the Board of Trade respecting their proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, 56 & 57 Vict. c. 29, during the year ended 27th July 1903.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Report by the Board of Trade on their proceedings and business under the Weights and Measures Acts.

GAS COMPANIES (METROPOLIS).

Accounts of the Metropolitan Gas Companies, for the year 1902.

PAWNBROKERS RETURNS (IRELAND).

Returns from the City Marshal of Dublin, for the year 1902.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION.

Return of the total number of law clerks serving in the several divisions of the High Court, giving the number, ages, salaries, and length of service of such clerks as are over the age of 60. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of the 23rd of July last), and to be printed. (No. 211).

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with Amendments agreed to.

MOTOR-CARS BILL [H.L.].

The SECRETARY for SCOTLAND (Lord Balfour of Burleigh): I think it probable that the House of Commons will finish the consideration of the Bill to regulate motor-cars to-night. As most of your Lordships know, some Amendments have been made; and I think it would be convenient to the House if I were to say that, if possible, we propose to take the consideration of those Amendments as the first business to-morrow. I will not press that arrangement, however, if it is inconvenient to the House.

The Marquess of RIPON: That means that the Government propose that we shall sit to-morrow. It is not usual to sit on Wednesdays, but I do not suppose there will be any objection in the circumstances.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: It seemed to me so obviously necessary that we should sit to-morrow that it did not occur to me to ask whether it would be to the convenience of the House generally to do so.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[Second Reading.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: My Lords, in asking the House to read a Bill of this size a second time at this period of the session, I feel that a few words of explanation are necessary from me. The Bill itself affects nothing but the administration of burghs in Scotland. It is a Bill to amend the Act passed in 1892. That statute is a very lengthy one, and during the lapse of time which has occurred since it was passed a great number of defects have been found in it, and a considerable number of Amendments are really necessary to make it work. The fact has been painfully brought to my notice many and many a time during the years that I have administered the Scottish Office, and several attempts have been made on the part of the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs to amend that Act. A Bill to amend it was introduced in 1901, and again last year, but in both those cases there were so many points of friction and difficulty that it was found impossible to get time to pass the Bill through another place. After all, this Bill is one which involves no principle, because burghs must be regulated, and they require regulation in many matters which are applicable to country districts. It is essentially a Bill containing a mass of detail. Further, those details are oftentimes important, not only to the burghs themselves, but to the country districts immediately around.

A proposal, therefore, was made to my Office, or rather to me on behalf of the Office, that those who advised me in such matters as this should consult the officials of the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs, and see whether we could not produce to Parliament an agreed measure, and this Bill as introduced by Mr. Asher in another place was the result of many conferences which took place in the autumn of last year. A good many points were left over for discussion in Parliament, and although no time has been taken up of the House of Commons as a whole, a great many negotiations have taken place, and the Bill ultimately passed through Grand Committee in the other House in the form in which it is presented to your Lordships. Many Amendments were proposed on behalf of Government Departments, County Councils, and private interests, and a settlement of every outstanding question has actually now taken place. This Bill might have reached this House a week or two ago, but there is a mysterious process which goes on in the other House of blocking Bills, not perhaps always on their merits, but on account of a variety of considerations.

I think I can safely ask your Lordships to pass this Bill. I can assure you that the Lord Advocate has watched it in all its stages and has been privy to all the negotiations to which I have referred. It has been through the Grand Committee on Law, and I believe with some drafting Amendments on one or two points, which I shall have to bring to the notice of the House to-morrow, it may be assumed to be an absolutely agreed measure—indeed, the Amendments are also agreed. On the contents of the Bill I think I need only say that the first part of it is pure amendment, in minor details, of the Burgh Police Act, 1892, and is compulsory on all burghs. The second part of the Bill is an adoptive part, which a burgh may accept or not; but if it wants the reforms contained in the clauses dealing with the width of streets, buildings, squares, sky-signs, advertisement sites, the supply of milk, and so forth, it will be a great convenience that there should be a set of model clauses which the burgh can adopt. We hope to do in this Bill, for Scottish Burghs, what was recommended by the Select Committee of the House of Commons, to whom were referred all private Bills promoted by municipal and local authorities. They suggested that their labours would be materially lessened, and better co-ordination of local legislation would be secured, if model clauses were agreed upon in the way proposed in this Bill. That is an extremely wise and sensible recommendation, and I am glad to be able to say that so far as Scotland is concerned we are by this Bill making a step to carry it out for the first time. I hope in these circumstances that, late as it is, your Lordships will allow the Bill to proceed.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: This is an instance of what happens at this period of the session. This is a Bill of over one hundred clauses. It has not been circulated, and there is, of course, no possible means of considering it. I should like to ask my noble friend what day he proposes to take the Committee stage.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I propose to take the Committee stage to-morrow. I do not wish to repeat what I said before the noble Lord came into the House, but I think I did give rather a full, and, I hope, a satisfactory, explanation of the circumstances under which the Bill has been introduced.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I must apologise to the noble Lord for not having been in the House. If the Bill is to be taken in Committee to-morrow, the best thing I can do is to confer with my noble friend privately on one or two points. Consideration of the Bill is, of course, out of the question. The congested state of your Lordships' Paper furnishes a further illustration of what Lord Newton said earlier in the session, that in the month of August this House is forced to pass Bills without having the opportunity of knowing what is contained in them. At the same time, I do not say that this Bill is not a very satisfactory one; but I protest against our having to pass it without opportunity for consideration.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: I am obliged to the noble Earl for the way he has met my suggestion that we should proceed with the Bill. I admit that it is asking a good deal of the House to pass it at this late period of the session. I will endeavour to meet the noble Earl's wishes as far as possible.

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[Second Reading.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: This Bill is a very short one, and can easily be mastered by anyone who will give five minutes to the operation. It is a Bill purely of details, and really the details, although important to the town councils themselves, are so relatively unimportant to anyone else that unless I am asked a Question in regard to them I will not take up the time of the House with further explanation.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

RAILWAYS (ELECTRIC POWER) BILL,

SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN AND WAR CONTRIBUTION BILL,

MILITARY WORKS BILL,

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL,

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL,

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

MARRIAGES LEGALISATION BILL.

[Second Reading.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord BELPER: My Lords, this is a very small Bill, for the purpose of legalising certain marriages which have been performed by inadvertence in churches not properly licensed for the purpose. There is nothing unusual in the form of the Bill, and I beg to move that it be read a second time.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Belper.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order): Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith: House in Committee accordingly: Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived: Bill read 3^a, and passed.

IRISH LAND BILL.

[Third Reading.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading, read.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 3^a.—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

The Earl of BELMORE: My Lords, I rise to make a suggestion with regard to the position of the lessees under Trinity College. I would suggest to the noble Duke the desirability of the Government considering seriously the question of appointing a small Commission during the autumn, to go into the case of these lessees, which need not take more than a few weeks, with a view to seeing whether something cannot be done to meet it.

Lord CASTLETOWN: I would remind the noble Earl that on a former occasion, when this Question was under discussion, the noble Duke in charge of the Bill stated that the Irish Government had under contemplation the appointment of a small Commission to consider the whole subject.

The Earl of DUNRAVEN: My Lords, I am sorry the Government have not seen their way to remove two blots from the Bill which, in my opinion, may affect injuriously its usefulness as a final Act for the settlement of this question. I allude to the fact that the amount of legal expenses which will fall upon individuals is still left uncertain in the Bill, and to the method of the distribution of the grant-in-aid. It is impossible for any owner who desires to sell, to ascertain what legal expenses will fall upon him, and how much of those expenses will be defrayed by the Land Commission. I should not have thought it beyond the power of His Majesty's Government to have laid down in the schedule a definite scale of expenses, or in some other way to have intimated accurately, or even approximately, what portion of the legal expenses it is intended shall be defrayed by the Land Commission, and what proportion will fall upon the individual owner. His Majesty's Government have not thought fit to enter into any real explanation of this subject. I think that the consequences will be that owners will hold back from selling. A man desiring to sell, will naturally hesitate to do so until he is perfectly assured as to what his financial position will be afterwards, and I fear owners will hang back to see what happens to their neighbours and to find out by practical experience how much of these legal expenses will fall on their own shoulders. If I am at all correct in what I fear, all I can say is that His Majesty's Government have nobody but themselves to blame for it. As to the distribution of the grant-in aid, I had the honour of moving an Amendment to the effect that it should be distributed initially at the rate of 15 per cent. instead of 12 per cent., and I pointed out—and, I think, successfully pointed out—that it is absolutely necessary that the initial rate should be 15 per cent. if we are to be certain that the whole of the bonus will be received. It was suggested that my Amendment involved an infringement and breach of the privileges of the House of Commons, but my Amendment could not possibly have added one farthing to the sum already appropriated, namely, £12,000,000. As the House of Commons appropriated a definite, specific sum of £12,000,000, and as my Amendment could not add one farthing to that sum, I submit that the reason why it was suggested that my Amendment involved a breach of privilege was that His Majesty's Government had no other or better reason to give against it. As a matter of fact, His Majesty's Government have given no reason, except an absolutely *non possumus* one. I regret this more than I can say. I should be very sorry to pose as a prophet of evil, and I hope that facts will prove that my fears are unfounded; but of this I am certain, that if His Majesty's Government had allowed the Bill to be amended in such a way as to have defined the amount of legal expenses to be defrayed by the Land Commission, and to ensure that the landowner received the whole of the bonus, the success of the Bill would have been assured.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I have abstained from taking any part in the discussions on this Bill, as I did not wish to figure as the proverbial fly in a pot of what is considered to be healing ointment. I did not wish to strike a jarring note in regard to this question, where general harmony is supposed to prevail, but Lord Hampden, in a speech which he made, I think, on the Second Reading, denounced the Bill so strongly that I feel myself free to speak exactly my feelings with regard to it. He called it a corrupting Bill, and also, I think, a mischievous and monstrous measure. It is no doubt a Bill to induce the landlords of Ireland to give up their property. They have accepted this offer—I will not call it a bribe—and who can blame them for it? It is not this Bill that is in fault, but the legislation which has led to this Bill—the legislation which began in 1870, when principles were introduced into our legislation that had never been heard of before, when the Government turned their back upon themselves and did the very thing which they exist not to do. What does Government exist for but to maintain contracts inviolate and to protect property? The legislation of 1870 broke all contracts, and robbed the landlords instead of protecting their property. It has resulted in further legislation of the same kind; and this legislation has extended beyond Ireland and taken root in the crofts in the West of Scotland and in every farm in England, Scotland, and Wales through the Agricultural Holdings Act. Indeed, if you look at the list of measures in another place, you will find that these principles are attempted to be applied to everything. There is interference of the State everywhere, taking the property of one class and giving it to another.

I have from the very first resisted this kind of legislation. I resisted the Land Bill of 1870 and the Land Bill of 1881, and I resisted the policy in 1896 of trying to kill Home Rule by kindness and the introduction of another Land Bill, against which, there being no division in your Lordships' House, I entered my written protest under, I think, seven heads. Looking, as I have recently done, through the Journals of this House, what do I find? I find that in your Lordships' House, which is supposed to be the great Court of Appeal and the House which gives protection to property, contracts, and everything else, and puts its foot down on wrongful legislation, in all this course of Irish legislation from 1870 down to the present time, there has not been a single Division against the principle of any of these Bills. This legislation has resulted in the necessity of a measure such as this, which is to get rid of the loyal Irish landlords. Having resisted all this legislation, I accept this Bill heartily in this sense—that it is a Bill that does partial justice, and only partial justice, to Irish landlords. For what has been the effect on the landlords of Ireland of your legislation? How much the disturbance clause of the Land Act of 1870 cost your Lordships I know not, but it gave any tenant of a tenancy of £50 a year rent, or under seven years value of his rent if disturbed by his landlord for any cause. Thus, if a landlord wished to resume his property he would have to pay the outgoing tenant £350 if the rent was £50. This might mean many millions taken from the landlord and transferred to the tenant. I have placed myself in communication with one of the best-known land agents in Ireland, and I asked him whether it was true that landed property in Ireland had gone down something like 40 per cent., and he replied in the affirmative. I then asked how much of that was due to our legislation, and he replied 20 per cent. Two days ago I wired to him to know how much 20 per cent. on the landed income of Ireland would amount to if capitalised, and the answer came back, £70,000,000 at twenty-two and a-half years' purchase. Therefore, according to the opinion of one of the most competent land agents in Ireland, past legislation has reduced the capital value of the property of Irish landlords by £70,000,000.

This Bill, then, presents itself to me, an independent Scottish Member, as but an act of incomplete justice to Irish landlords. I think the amount that we pay under it, £12,000,000, constitutes a very small penalty for our past legislation, by which we have caused them to lose £70,000,000. What the effect of the Bill will be it is not for me to say—the Irish landlords and tenants know more about that than I do; but I fear there are elements in the Bill which will not conduce to peace. It is possible that again a hostile feeling may arise; but, at any rate, your Lordships have done your best. After all, we know that there is much loyalty in the Irish people. Their loyalty is shown in the gallant Irish soldiers who fight the battles of the Empire, in that splendid body of men the Irish Constabulary, and recently that loyalty was called forth by the peace-making visit of our Sovereign, who, by his happy speeches, never-failing tact, and genial manner, succeeded, assisted by our gracious Queen, in winning the hearts of the Irish people. I trust that this Bill may make for peace, and that the Irish farmer, when he is made proprietor, will be less amenable to the seductions of the Irish patriot, whether that patriot be found in Parliament or in Ireland. It is never sufficiently taken into consideration that we are dealing with a country which is very close to these shores. Many Irish Nationalists still look forward to separation, and Mr. Parnell said in America that he would not take off his coat for anything else. I hope this Bill will tend to knock all these ideas out of the head of the Irish patriot. Recently we sent 250,000 men 6,000 miles across the sea to maintain the integrity of our Empire in South Africa. Ireland is only eleven miles from Great Britain at the nearest point. That is the distance from Hyde Park to Woolwich in one direction, and to Richmond in another, or one mile less than the distance between the south or north sides of the Firth of Forth; and I venture to say that nothing on earth will induce the people of this country to allow Ireland to be in a different position from that of Scotland or Wales. What has been done in the case of South Africa will be done with a hundred times more zeal for the maintenance of the unity of the United Kingdom.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I do not think it necessary to follow the noble Earl through his eloquent, though somewhat discursive, review of the course of legislation on Irish land since 1870. It cannot be denied that much of the legislation has been exceptional in character; and to enter with advantage into this review it would be necessary to refer to the exceptional circumstances which induced Parliament from time to time to make special legislation affecting this kind of property in Ireland. The existence of such special circumstances must be evident, and the noble Earl has mentioned that not one of these special measures have been resisted in the House on the Second or Third Readings. This House, if it represents nothing else, does, at any rate, very much represent the interests of property; and the noble Earl must agree that these measures would not have been assented to without challenge on the part of any Member of the House, if circumstances had not existed which made exceptional legislation in regard to Irish land a matter of absolute and urgent necessity. I am very glad to hear that, though the noble Earl disapproves of the whole of this legislation which has hitherto been enacted in regard to land in Ireland, he accepts the present measure as a necessity following the legislation he has eloquently condemned.

It only remains to answer questions raised by other noble Lords. The first of these, from the Earl of Belmore, was on the subject of the leases held under Trinity College. On a former occasion I stated that the Question was under the consideration of the Government, and that we had in contemplation the appointment of a small Commission to consider the whole subject. I am not able to say that an absolute decision on that point has been arrived at, but I can give the assurance that the matter is still under the consideration of the Irish Government, and that it is possible that a Commission will be appointed. The questions raised by the Earl of Dunraven have reference to two points. The first deals with the extent to which vendors under the Bill will be relieved from the costs attending transfer of estates. The Government are unable to make the clause to which reference has been made more definite than it is, because the extent to which vendors can be relieved of the cost is not yet determined, and cannot be determined without previous very careful investigation of the administrative machinery, and the reference of the results of that investigation to the Treasury. It is not intended under the clause that the State shall pay the whole of the vendor's costs. I repeat in more general terms that which I have said previously in debate, the Commissioners will be an administrative body acting under, and directly instructed by, the Government to facilitate as far as possible the transactions they will be appointed to carry out, and with such limitations of cost as may be possible. They will do their best, with the machinery at their disposal for the purpose, to reduce the cost of transfer.

The noble Earl thinks that it is quite possible that the whole of the £12,000,000 provided in the Bill will never be distributed in the mode proposed. On that point it is not possible for me to say more than that the opinion of the Government does not agree with that of the noble Earl. The sum of £12,000,000 was arrived at on as careful an investigation as could be framed of the amount which might, in all probability, be required in order to enable the Commission to distribute a bonus of 12 per cent. upon the sales which they sanctioned. The noble Earl said that if the Government had accepted his proposal and increased the percentage from 12 to 15, it could not possibly have affected the total sum to be advanced in this way. I would like to ask the noble Earl what, in his opinion, would have been the result if it had been found before the conclusion of these transactions that the sum of £12,000,000 was not sufficient for the purposes for which it had been allotted by Parliament. Would not appeal have been made to Parliament to add a further sum to the amount which had been found inadequate? All the Government promise to the vendors in each transaction is that, with certain exceptions, a bonus of 12 per cent. shall be given. The noble Lord contended that it would have been more satisfactory —and no doubt it would have been—if the bonus had been made at the rate of 15 per cent. But it is not open to the noble Earl to suggest to the Government that his estimate of the total sum needed is more likely to be accurate than ours, and, because he thinks £12,000,000 may not all be wanted, to require us to adopt his estimate and increase the percentage from 12 to 15 per cent.

I observe that there are still some Amendments to be moved to the Bill. I have only seen them since I entered the House, and it is impossible for me to state beforehand how the Government will deal with every one of them. There are some which are of a drafting or consequential nature. There are two or three, I believe, which are not, in the opinion of the Government, inconsistent with the principles of the provisions of the Bill, and which they may be able to accept. There are, however, one or two Amendments, which apparently propose to revive questions which have already been discussed, and on which the Government and the House have already expressed a strong and definite opinion. I earnestly trust that the Amendments of that nature will not be pressed. I am not, of course, able to forecast with any approach to certainty what view may be taken in the other House of the Amendments which have either been carried against the Government, or to which the Government have assented more or less under protest. But I am able to say that I do not think the position of the Government, at all events in the other House, will be altogether irreconcilable with reference to some of these Amendments. If contentious questions raised by Amendments still on the Paper are not insisted upon, I have reason to believe that the Government will be prepared to suggest to the other House that the two Amendments which were carried by Lord Macnaghten with regard to procedure on the rent-fixing clauses, at all events, should be accepted. That is to say, we shall not be indisposed to recommend the House of Commons to put back rehearings in place of appeals, and to assent to the Amendment which abolished special procedure for the case of £5 rents.

There is another Amendment to which very considerable importance seemed to be attached by a noble Lord from Ireland, which the Government will not be able to accept in its entirety, but which with certain modifications would, I think, go a long way to meet the views which have been expressed. It was agreed last night to omit, in the clause relating to the repurchase of demesnes, the words "Adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of the estate sold." These words, I think, will have to be restored, but at the same time we shall suggest to the other House that words should be added which will give a discretion to the Estates Commissioners, when they consider that such a qualification might with advantage be omitted, in order to facilitate the sale of the estate. Before I sit down, I think I may say that the Government have, perhaps, been somewhat disappointed at the extent to which the very large concessions which have been made by this Bill appear to be deemed to be insufficient and unsatisfactory by those to whom those concessions have been made. Very large concessions have, I think, been made to the present owners of landed property in Ireland, which previous to the discussions in the conference of last year it could scarcely have been expected would ever have been proposed by any Government or accepted by any British Parliament. I think that on a calm review of these concessions, and the manner in which they have been accepted by the British Parliament, they will be disposed to admit that this measure has been conceived in no unworthy spirit of parsimony or distrust; and although we do not expect that they will ever be satisfied with the great change which has been made in their position by twenty years of land legislation, I hope they will see that this is not an inadequate measure, and will relieve them of some, at all events, of the injuries or losses to which they have been exposed. I trust the Bill will now receive its Third Reading, and that the discussion upon the Amendments may be conducted in the spirit of the declaration which I have been able to make.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, the danger of this Bill is that it gives a very imperfect guarantee that it will be the final settlement to the agrarian question in Ireland. This Bill is only the inevitable consequence of the Irish policy initiated by Mr. Gladstone, and that policy throughout has been unjust to the Irish landowners. Lord Salisbury's excuse for continuing this policy was that a continuity of policy which was so necessary in foreign affairs was also necessary in home affairs. I would remind your Lordships that if the Government had been consistent in these views you would have had no South African war, but a South African Republic would be at present in existence. I cannot see why Irish affairs should be dealt with differently from those of the rest of the Empire.

With all the discussion about the Land Conference terms, it has been admitted by Mr. Wyndham in the House of Commons that this Bill goes much nearer the tenants' terms under that arrangement than the landlords. How, then, can the latter be expected to receive it with enthusiasm? When old opponents like Mr. Redmond and Mr. William O'Brien assent to terms more favourable than those advocated by the Party which we have helped to place in power, it is time to inquire who are the present custodians of Conservative principles? I was elected to your Lordships' House as a Conservative representative Peer, but for some time I have been wondering what has become of the Conservative Party? Past Governments who claim to be Conservative have been anything but Conservative as regards their Irish policy. Each new Irish Secretary has tried his prentice hand on Irish land legislation, and, so far, each attempt has made matters worse.

Now, my Lords, when with no desire to obstruct Mr. Wyndham's policy, we, who are acquainted far more perfectly with the circumstances of Irish property than Ministers can be, as has been proved in the recent debates, put forward most moderate suggestions for making land purchase work more smoothly, little as we like being expropriated, we are met by an almost continuous *non possumus* on the part of the Government. The Government have thrown over their loyal supporters in favour of the Nationalist Party, who have often declared their disloyalty and hatred to anything Saxon. I would remind your Lordships that the Liberal Government were thrown out on the question of Home Rule. This Bill now before your Lordships is in reality a strong step to bring Home Rule about. The whole of this legislation has not only been unjust and dishonest, but it has shown great cowardice on the part of successive Governments, who have prostituted their sense of justice to the outcry of agitators' and for the purpose of gaining a few votes or disarming opposition in the House of Commons. This Bill has received the assent of some landlords, it is true, but what is the reason they have accepted it? They have accepted it from their experience of the tender mercies of the British Government during the last thirty years.

The agitators to whom this Government and preceding Governments have listened so attentively have claimed as a reason for legislation that the Irish farmer was down-trodden and over-rented. I would draw your attention to what Mr. Redmond said the other day at Burnley —

> "The very moment the Bill became law and the people became owners of the land, it was his firm conviction that the soil of Ireland would produce double the value it produced at present."

If that is true, my Lords, it shows that the agitation on the land question has been fictitious, and that the land has never been assessed at its true value. Again, this bonus of £12,000,000, which is so often and so untruly described as a dole to the Irish landlords, is nothing of the kind. It is neither more nor less than a gift to the tenant farmers of Ireland to enable them to purchase at considerably under value; for remember, that when it is added to the purchase money which the tenants give, not one landlord in a hundred will, as the Bill stands, enjoy his present net income, heavily reduced as it has been by Land Courts, three-fourths of whose members are tenant farmers, whereas every tenant purchaser will obtain a substantial reduction in his expenses.

Again, we hear that this £12,000,000 is a gift to Ireland, but it is, in fact, Irish money. It is proposed to be paid off by certain savings in Irish Administration, and thus once more the Irish dog has to be fed with a joint off his own tail. Governments that professed free trade principles have been exercising the highest form of protection as regards Irish land, from which they have taken away every vestige of free contract so far as it could possibly benefit the landlord. And now, after the very bitter experience we have had from the Irish legislation of past years, I think we have a right to ask the Government to guarantee that, at all events on their side of the House, there will be no further legislation bringing forward compulsory sale, no matter how disguised the measure may be. Of course, I am aware that they cannot bind those who are in opposition, but the least they can do is to guarantee that while their Party are in power, now and hereafter, they will not initiate further unjust legislation, and inflict perfectly undeserved penalties on the Irish landlords, who have been admitted, both by Mr. Gladstone and other statesmen who have certainly not shown themselves our friends, to have been most reasonable in their dealing with their tenants and most undeserving of the treatment they have met with.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN: My Lords, I will not enter into all the arguments which the noble Lord who has just sat down, has addressed to your Lordships with regard to this Bill and the action of his Majesty's Government upon it, but I feel bound to repudiate most of the words the noble Lord has used in regard to this Bill, because I consider that they are not at all appropriate to the present occasion. On the contrary, I would venture, on behalf of the Irish landowners, to thank the noble Duke not only for the manner in which he has introduced the measure into your Lordships' House but also for the courteous way in which he has received the various Amendments proposed in Committee. We naturally, as representing the landowners' section in Ireland, have to fight their battles and obtain the best terms that we possibly can for them, but we have endeavoured to do so with moderation. I think that the manner in which noble Lords have brought forward their Amendments, and especially the ability which some of the younger Members have shown, must have met with the approval of the House. It is very pleasant to find that among the rising generation there are noblemen who may be looked to as future Statesmen, and I am sure their appearance in these debates will be welcomed. I hope that the other House will treat the measure, as sent down to it, with the same moderation which it has met with at the hands of your Lordships' House, and that before many days are past this great Land Bill—for, whether you object to it or approve of it, there can be no doubt that it is a great measure, originated in the mind of a great man—will come back to your Lordships without any alteration, and will be firmly placed upon the Statute-book.

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

LORD MACNAGHTEN moved an Amendment to Sub-section 1 of Clause 7, which ran as follows:

> "The Land Judge may, at the request of the Land Commission, cause the Commission to be furnished with such particulars and documents as they may require respecting the estate, including a schedule in the prescribed form of the tenancies thereon, and a statement of the superior interests (if any) to which the estate is subject."

He moved to insert, after the word "Commission," the words "unless he thinks it inequitable under the circumstances that the estate should be dealt with under this section." He said that great apprehension was felt about this clause in Ireland. It was thought that the Land Commission might seize upon the most solvent estates and insist on their being sold at once. He did not himself think that would be the effect of the clause, but a great many people believed that the Land Judge would be merely a passive instrument in the hands of the Commission, and would be bound to do what they told him. Speaking for himself, he did not think that was the meaning of the clause, but he moved the insertion of the words, contained in his Amendment, in order to allay apprehension that undoubtedly existed.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 5, line 31, after the word 'Commission,' to insert the words 'unless he thinks it inequitable under the circumstances that the estate should be dealt with under this section.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE) said the Land Judge was given very wide powers with respect to the whole of the administration. He need not accept the offer made to him by the Land Commission unless he thought it right, and when he put the estate up to auction he was not bound to accept the price unless he thought it a just one. He did not think it was at all necessary to insert the words proposed in the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 16, after line 24, after the word 'money' to insert as a new sub-section the words '(6) For the purpose of giving effect to this enactment, the Land Commission may, if they think fit, in the case ot a terminable charge, satisfy the same by the investment in any securities in which trustees are by law authorised to invest trust money of a capital sum, the annual income of which will be sufficient to satisfy the annual amount of the charge.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

THE EARL OF WESTMEATH said the Amendment went a long way towards meeting their views, but he suggested the omission of the words "may, if they think fit," and the insertion, in their place, of the words "shall on the application of the vendor."

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I suppose the question as to the use of the word "may" or "shall" has been debated thousands of times in both Houses of Parliament. I conceive that the words "may, if they think fit" mean, "shall, if in their opinion, the case is one in which effect ought to be given to the provisions of the sub-section," and that discretion must necessarily be left to them. In all such cases as, in their opinion, come within the meaning of the sub-section the word "may," I conceive, is equivalent to "shall."

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF ARRAN had an Amendment on the paper to omit Sub-section 2 of Clause 25, which provided that—

"If on the closing day the title of any person whose claim has been so attached to the purchase money, whether as vendor, or incumbrancer, or owner of a superior or intervening interest, is not established, and if a portion of the purchase money equivalent to the amount of his claim has not being invested in pursuance of the powers conferred by Sub-section 1 of Section 14 of the Act of 1887, then, until his title is established, interest in respect of the claim shall not be payable out of the purchase money or otherwise at a higher rate than the rate payable by the Land Commission to the National Debt Commissioners in respect of outstanding advances."

He moved to leave out the words "out of the purchase money or otherwise," and to insert "out of the purchase money, or recoverable under any agreement or covenant, or chargeable on any other land or securities which may be subject to such claims along with the lands sold." He said he understood that the Government were willing to accept his Amendment down to the word "covenant," in which case he would withdraw the second part of the Amendment.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said the deletion of the latter half of the Amendment would meet the objection taken to the words as they appeared on the Paper, and if the Amendment were moved in that form he would offer no objection to it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, line 20, to leave out the words 'out of the purchase money or otherwise' and to insert the words 'out of the purchase money, or recoverable under any agreement or covenant.'"—(*The Earl of Arran.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD MACNAGHTEN said the next Amendment was intended to correct a slip which had been made in an Amendment carried the previous day.

Amendment moved—

"In page 18, line 22, after the word 'advances' to insert the words 'Provided that, in case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts, any charge or incumbrance thereon may be paid off notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or instrument to the contrary.'"—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 27, line 27, after the word 'in' to insert the words '(*a.*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon rates or taxes levied under the authority of any Act of Parliament or Provisional Order by any municipal corporation or other local authority in the United Kingdom which shall be authorised to borrow on such security; (*b.*) Ground rents arising out of hereditaments in the United Kingdom and not exceeding in amount one-fourth part of the annual value at a rack rent of the premises out of which such ground rents issue; (*c.*) Debentures or mortgages of railway companies in the United Kingdom incorporated by Act of Parliament; (*d.*) Stocks or shares of any tramway or light railway interest upon which is guaranteed from or charged upon rates under the Tramways (Ireland) Acts; (*e.*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon any investments in which trustees are authorised by this or any other Act to invest trust funds ; (*f.*) Debentures or fully-paid shares or stocks of any railway provided that the sufficiency of any such investments to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust shall be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustees under this Act.' "—(*Lord Castletown.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY) said he was prepared to accept the Amendment on condition that after the word " investments," in Sub-section (*f.*), the noble Lord would agree to insert the words " as are hereinbefore in this section recited."

LORD CASTLETOWN said he was quite willing to accept the addition of these words.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD CASTLETOWN said the new sub-section which he now moved to Clause 57 would prove very useful in the working of the Bill. He could not see what objection there could be to it.

Amendment moved—

" In page 33, line 15, after the word 'matter,' to insert as a new sub-section the words : '(6) In the cases of sales to tenants other than sales by the Land Commission or sales by the Land Judge, the date at which interest on the purchase money payable under Sub-section 2 of Section 35 of the Act of 1896 shall begin to be payable shall be—(*a.*) If the agreement for purchase be made on any first day of May or first day of November from the date of such agreement ; (*b.*) In all other cases from a date to be specified in the agreement, and not being earlier than the gale day immediately preceding the date of agreement ; and such interest shall be dealt with according to the terms of the said sub-section.' "—(*Lord Castletown.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said that no difficulty had arisen which rendered it at all necessary to make such an important change as that proposed in the ordinary and settled practice. When people entered into a bargain to buy or sell they could enter into a complete arrangement both as to the date and amount. He did not think it would be wise or prudent to seek to make the change proposed by the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Macnaghten.

LORD CASTLETOWN said that when Clause 87 was in Committee, the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor of Ireland stated with regard to an Amendment then brought forward, similar to the one now on the Paper, that the Treasury would be terrified by the expense that would be put upon them if the Amendment were agreed to. He (Lord Castletown) had since received information from Dublin that every County Court Judge had a Court valuer who was paid £3 5s. a day when employed. The experts he proposed to substitute would get exactly the same salary, and therefore the Treasury would not lose anything on that head. The only difference was that the Lay Assistant Commissioner would be paid annually, and that during the time he was not assisting the County Court Judge in these cases he would be assisting the Land Commission.

Amendment moved—

" In page 42 line 33, after the second word 'Commissioner' to insert as a new sub-section the words : '(2) For the purpose of assisting the County Court Judge in determining any question under the Land Law Acts relating to a holding, the Land Commission shall assign to each Civil Bill Court a Lay Assistant Commissioner, who shall inspect the holding, sit with, and assist the County Court Judge as a Lay Assessor.' "—(*Lord Castletown.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND said he was not able to follow the sanguine view of the noble Lord that the Amendment would not involve any additional expenditure. It was quite true that the Court valuer when employed received £3 5s. a day ; but if he was engaged for only two or three days on two or three occasions a year, the sum involved was a small one. If, however, he was employed at the same rate for the whole year it would come to a substantial sum. It would necessitate a very substantial increase in the large staff of Assistant Commissioners if each of the twenty-two County Court Judges in Ireland required, when their land sessions came on, to have the assistance and the presence of an Assistant Commissioner.

LORD CASTLETOWN said he, of course, bowed to the noble and learned Lord and would withdraw his Amendment. At the same time he did not think the noble and learned Lord was right.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN moved to leave out Clause 95, which was inserted on Report on the Motion of Lord Monteagle of Brandon. He said he felt that he owed some apology to their Lordships for venturing to submit a Motion with regard to this Bill. If the matter had been one of detail he would not have intruded, because the details of the Bill were so many and so complicated that they could only be dealt with by noble Lords from Ireland, many of whom, especially some of the younger ones, had shown a very full and complete knowledge both of the probable operation and of the details of the Bill. But the matter which he ventured to raise was one of principle. Clause 95 contained, as he thought, a most injurious principle. His first objection had reference to the question of order. On the previous Friday this clause was under consideration and was then amended by their Lordships. After it had been amended and had assumed the form in which it now stood, a Motion was made to omit it, and their Lordships, by 66 votes to 48, struck the clause out of the Bill. If there was any rule to which their Lordships always bowed it was this, that when a decision had been arrived at by a substantial majority, whatever might be noble Lords' opinions with regard to the merits of that decision, it was accepted, and the decision remained recorded in the Bill. [The Marquess of RIPON dissented.] He understood the noble Marquess near him to challenge that.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON said he certainly challenged it as a rule of order.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said it occasionally happened that when a decision was arrived at by a very narrow majority the matter was reconsidered by the House, but it was always usual to give formal notice that the House would be invited to reconsider its decision. In this particular case no such notice was given, and the Amendment was in direct contravention of the decision at which their Lordships arrived on Friday. He thought business in their Lordships' House would become very difficult of transaction if they were constantly to revise the decisions at which they had arrived after due consideration. If he had noticed the Amendment on the Paper on Monday he would certainly have asked their Lordships to reject it, because it asked the House to reverse its decision. In the House of Commons the Speaker would not have allowed the Amendment to be put on the Paper. This clause made a material change in the whole scope and policy of the Labourers Acts. The expression "agricultural labourer" was altered not merely with regard to this Act, but with regard to the Labourers Acts of 1883 and 1896. The definition as it stood in the Act of 1883 was that an agricultural labourer meant "a person who habitually works for hire in agricultural work on the land of some other person, and whose principle means of living is such hire." It was amended in 1896 to mean a "man or woman whose occupation, during the ordinary season of agricultural work, is the doing of agricultural work for hire on the land of some other person or persons." But in this Bill it is provided that—

> "The expression 'agricultural labourer' in the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896—and this Act, shall include any person (other than a domestic or menial servant) working for hire in a rural district whose average wages in the year preceding the lodgment of any representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, affecting him, do not exceed two shillings and sixpence a day, and who is not in occupation of land exceeding one quarter of an acre."

Therefore this Bill enlarged the definition of "agricultural labourer" to such an extent that it would comprehend almost anybody who lived in a rural district. Clause 95 provided—

> "Where any agricultural labourer has made, or concurred in the making of, a representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and within twelve months thereafter is dismissed from his employment, he may apply to a County Court Judge for compensation, on the ground that he has been dismissed by reason of his having made, or concurred in making, the representation, and if in the opinion of the County Court Judge he was dismissed for the reason aforesaid, the County Court Judge may award him compensation not exceeding three months' wages."

In Ireland agricultural labourers were employed for short periods, and they had no right whatever to claim employment. Under this clause, if a labourer was lazy or had bad habits, and it was not unlikely that he would be dismissed, the best thing he could do, in his own interests, would be to join in making an application for a cottage, and then, in the event of his being dismissed, to apply to the Judge for compensation. He protested strongly against the introduction of any enactment of this kind. He objected to the insertion of this clause because it tended to establish, as a system, the custom of building cottages out of the rates Why should Ireland in this matter be managed on principles quite different from those which obtained in England and Scotland? Mr. Wyndham had stated in the House of Commons that it was his intention to consider all the Irish Labourers Acts during the autumn, and, after consultation with his colleagues, to frame a Bill dealing completely with the subject. That being so, it appeared to him that to introduce into this Bill such a clause as this was a very great mistake. They did not know what the intentions of the Chief Secretary were, but if he really intended to enlarge the application of the Labourers Acts, and to create a system of building cottages upon the rates, the whole of the efforts in this Bill to create peace in Ireland, at very great cost to the taxpayer, would be thrown away, and a foundation would be laid for a new war between the new owners of the land and the labourers. He urged their Lordships to revert to their former decision and omit the clause.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 95, which was inserted on Report on Motion of Lord Monteagle of Brandon."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): I do not wish to discuss the merits of this clause, though I voted against it, but I cannot agree with my noble friend that there is any point of order. There is no rule of order that the House cannot at one stage of the Bill cancel or alter an Amendment moved at another stage.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON said that all he stated was that there was no rule of order against the procedure that had taken place. He was glad to be supported in that view by the Lord Chairman of Committees.

LORD INCHIQUIN, who at the Committee stage, moved the rejection of this clause, said that at the time of moving it he admitted that the alteration which had been made by substituting the County Court Judge for the Summary Jurisdiction Court very largely met his view, but did not entirely remove his objections. One of the chief objections to the clause was that it placed an unjust power in the hands of labourers, not only against landlords, but against all employers of labour in Ireland. He had the greatest objection to the clause even as it stood, but at this late period of the session, and after the substantial concessions that had been given them, he appealed to his noble friend to withdraw his Amendment, especially in view of the fact that they had been promised a Bill next year dealing with the whole question.

THE EARL OF MEATH associated himself with the protest made by Lord Camperdown against this clause. He did not think many noble Lords had realised how dangerous the clause was. If it was passed there was not the slightest doubt that within a very short period its principles would be extended to England and Scotland.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN desired to associate himself with the Earl of Camperdown in his protest against this clause. There was only one adjective which could be applied to it, and that was the word "preposterous." It contained a dangerous precedent, and he, at all events, joined in entering a protest against it.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN said undoubtedly the clause as it stood was less objectionable than it was in its original shape. The portion of the Bill which dealt with the labourers was of a provisional character, for they all knew that there was to be a Bill brought in next session. He hoped the Amendment would not be pressed.

LORD CASTLETOWN, while admitting that the clause contained an unpleasant germ, yet upon consideration advised that the objection to it should not be pressed. Surely it was only fair, if they were going to assist these men to obtain decent dwellings, to give them the power to resist the intimidation which everyone who lived in Ireland knew existed. The members of the rural district councils were the chief offenders, and it would have been better, he thought, if a provision could have been inserted by which they could be punished. The representations of the labourer for the purpose of getting a cottage takes the form that a certain number of labourers club together and make a representation for a certain cottage to be given to a man. An inspector goes down to the place to hear objections; he finds out the best place for putting the cottage, and the arrangement is carried out under those lines. The owners in Ireland are perfectly protected in that way. The only person to run any risk or danger is the farmer on whose land they desire to place these houses, and these are the men who have made the difficulty. A farmer, especially in the South of Ireland, will not allow two or three labourers' cottages to be placed on his land, and the only way to force him to do it is by these representations. He hoped his noble friend would withdraw his opposition to this clause. If he knew the country as well as they did, he would realise that it had been put forward with the best intentions, although, he must admit, there might be an unpleasant germ contained in it.

Lord MACNAGHTEN: I quite agree with the noble Viscount who described this clause as "preposterous." Indeed I am not quite sure that it is not grotesque. But as there is a great difference of opinion in the House about it, I think it would be a pity to go to a division and rekindle old fires. I must also say that I do not think it affects the landlords in the least. No one has ever said that the landlords were engaged in this difference of opinion, and perhaps, as the noble Duke directly hinted, it is in my county that the mischief is brewing. I may say I know perfectly well that in Antrim the farmers have the greatest possible objection to it. I made enquiries there last summer, however, and found that the objection had almost entirely disappeared, and they are not unwilling now to part with their land for the erection of houses thereon, if they are paid a good price for it. The real great difficulty to the working of these Labourers Acts is the enormous cost, the absolutely preposterous legal cost that is involved in taking a small patch of land. If you take only one acre they go back 100 years, and they make the mortgagee or any person who may be entitled to the dower, join in the deed. That is the real difficulty in working these Acts, and I hope my noble and learned friend, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, will do his best to get rid of that difficulty. That is what makes County Councils and District Councils so averse to building these houses. It is not the cost of the land or of the building, but the legal costs incurred in getting the land.

The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: As one of the younger Members of your Lordships' House, who was particularly vigilant in opposing this clause on the Committee stage, I hope I may be allowed to join in the appeal and ask my noble friend not to press the clause to a division. I objected to the clause directly I saw in the Bill that we were to be confined to the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, to which, in the absence of any appeal, I am not particularly keen to take any cause very often. The clause no longer contains this very great defect. From the very first I felt that this clause was particularly hard, more especially as I think the landowners, in the part of the country from which I come, have done their best to make some of these Labourers Acts a success. Personally, I was always glad to find one of these representation papers come in, and for the labourer, instead of having a horrible hovel situate in a filthy yard, to have a chance of getting hold of a decent house with an acre of land, and so better his position. But I did feel it hard that, whereas some of us had done our best to encourage this improvement, the only result was to raise the sword of Damocles over our heads. That, however, we shall have to put up with in the future, and I hope that the prophecy of my noble friend that the landlords are to be separated from the farmers in this matter, by some action that I confess I do not understand, may be realised. Personally, I think the action of this Bill will be the opposite to what my noble friend thinks. I have an idea that we shall all become farmers ourselves, and possibly in a few years hence I may be found driving my pigs into the market and bargaining for the sale of them with the noble Lord below me. But I understand now what I did not know at first, that these Labourers Acts have been abused by certain individuals in different parts of the country, and I only hope that we, who have not offended, will not suffer in conjunction with those who it is only right and proper should suffer.

Lord MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON: My Lords, as regards the point of order, I was quite unaware that I was infringing any rule of this House, written or unwritten, and if I did so I beg to apologise for it. From a practical point of view, it seems to me that a notice on the Paper is a more effective notice for this purpose than to get up after a division and say you are going to do so-and-so on a future day. I will, however, observe the unwritten law, to which the noble Earl called attention, on future occasions. With regard to the merits of the case, I should like to say that, as I have been denounced for bringing this clause on again, it appeared to me that whatever were the merits of this particular proposal, you might fairly lay down, as a fundamental maxim of law, that there should be no wrong without a remedy. Is it not a wrong that the labourers should be subject to such intimidation? I perfectly grant that the noble Lords opposite would not practise such intimidation or tyranny. I do not believe this affects the landlords in any way whatever, and I quite acquit my noble friends of the charge of not acting in the interests of the labourers, or in the public interest. But, if there is a wrong there should be a remedy, and I say that something should be done. I most cordially welcome the expressions of opinion from the other side of the House, and especially from the noble Earl who has just sat down, and whom I venture to compliment on the distinguished debating power he has shown in the course of this discussion. I appeal to the noble Earl not to press this clause to a division.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, after the speeches which have been made on both sides of the House, it is unnecessary for me to say more than a few words, and I hope the noble Earl opposite may not be disposed to press his Motion to a division. My Lords, I think the objection which the noble Earl took, on what he described as a point of order, has been pretty conclusively proved not to be well founded. It has been amply shown that it is certainly no question of order. It may be a question of ordinary practice of the House. I should be disposed to think it was more contrary to the ordinary practice of the House when a question had been discussed and divided upon in the Committee and Report stages, because a final decision come to on Report is not very frequently disturbed by an Amendment moved on the Third Reading. On the merits of the question I shall say very little. The noble Earl in his speech, I think, went somewhat beyond the limits of the clause which he proposes to delete, and discussed to a certain extent the policy of the Irish Labourers Acts. My Lords, I think that although it may not have been very obvious at first sight, a little consideration will show one of the reasons why it was thought necessary, in this Bill, to introduce any clause upon the subject of these Acts. This Bill, as has been repeatedly stated, is an attempt, and I think a great attempt, to restore agrarian peace in Ireland, and we all trust it may have that effect, as between the owners and the occupiers of the land. But we must remember that the owners and the occupiers of the land in Ireland are not the only class connected with the land, and that the interests of the labourers also have to be taken into consideration. Well, my Lords, I think it might very well have been apprehended, if this measure had been entirely confined to questions which affected the interests of only the landlords and the tenants, that the labourers of Ireland, who, according to the information we have received, do consider themselves in certain parts of Ireland—a very limited portion of Ireland—to be suffering under certain grievances, would have felt neglected had they found no notice whatever taken of their grievances in this great measure of industrial peace for Ireland. My Lords, I believe, although the principle of the Labourers Acts may, like other things in Irish legislation, be open to some question upon economical grounds, in practice it has been found that the Labourers Acts have worked not unsatisfactorily. Certainly in the opinion of a great many landlords their operation has not been unsatisfactory, and I believe they have been very generally approved of and acted upon by the tenant farmers. But it does appear that in certain parts of Ireland obstacles have been placed in the way of the intentions of Parliament being carried out, not generally by landlords, but by a certain number of tenant farmers, and this clause has been undoubtedly placed in the Bill for the purpose of providing a remedy for that attempt to obstruct the intentions of Parliament. My Lords, since the subject was first discussed here, I have ascertained that there is a very strong feeling in the other House upon this subject, and it is certain that the deleting of this clause would lead to very protracted debate, and the other House would insist upon its restoration. I think after the very near approach to reconciliation at which we have arrived, every one will agree that it is most desirable that the remaining subjects of possible difference between this House and the other House should be made as few as possible. Therefore, I trust that this Amendment, which would have the effect of raising additional questions to those which exist between us and the other House, may not be persisted in.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: After the appeal which has been made to me by noble Lords, both by those who are in favour of the clause and by those who dislike it, I do not think I should be doing right to put your Lordships to the trouble of a division. Of course, I do not wish to repeat anything I have said with regard to my own opinions, which remain the same as they were, but with regard to those friends of mine who like the clause, I will only say that I wish they would take it and keep it to their own estates. I hope and trust we shall never have anything of this kind brought to this side of the Channel. I beg to withdraw.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD CASTLETOWN: My Lords, the next Amendment is really an explanatory Amendment, and I will simply ask the noble Duke in charge of the Bill whether the Government see their way to accept it. It bears on the question of those proprietors who have already sold a portion of their holdings to the tenants under the Acts of 1886 and 1891. In some cases the tenants refused to buy, and there have been left in the hands of the landlords some half a dozen or perhaps twenty, or even thirty farms. I am anxious to find out whether in those estates, when they are put forward again for sale under this Bill, the owners will be entitled to the bonus. It is only an explanatory Amendment, and I shall be glad to hear the views of the Government on the subject.

Amendment moved—

"In page 45, line 17, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'and shall include any holdings on an estate which before the date upon which this Act comes into operation had been the subject matter of proceedings for sale under the Land Purchase Acts, but as to which holdings the sales had not either been agreed upon or carried out.'"—(*Lord Castletown.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I am advised that this Amendment would unduly and unnecessarily fetter the proceedings of the Estates Commissioners. The Bill leaves the Estates Commissioners entire discretion in the decision of what they will, and will not, consider an estate, and this Amendment would introduce an element of compulsion on that consideration which could not be admitted.

LORD CASTLETOWN: The answer of the noble Duke quite clears the air, and I beg to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House withdrawn.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I beg to move that this Bill be passed.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

LORD BELPER: I beg to move that the Report be now received.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY asked their Lordships to give attention to an Amendment which he brought forward on the previous night, but in accordance with the suggestion of the Government, who promised to give to it further consideration, did not then press. The Bill as it stood left it open to the local authority to decide whether or not a by-law should be passed for the restriction of street trading by girls under the age of sixteen years. His Amendment did exactly the same, leaving the local authority discretion as to whether the restriction should be ultimately made, but saying in definite form that in the opinion of Parliament such trading was undesirable. He did not wish to repeat the arguments he had used on the previous evening but there was one point upon which he was anxious to say a word, because he had learned that the subject had been misunderstood by some Members of their Lordships' House. It was asked why should they be so particular about the restriction of street trading by girls of fourteen years when they allowed it by girls of sixteen years for whom the perils of such employment were much greater. No one would make that objection who was at all familiar with the real working of the matter in the ordinary life of a great city. The true principle of action lay in the prevention of girls from entering at an early age upon a course likely to lead to a life of degradation and crime. They must for the first few years make that course impossible, and they need not be afraid but that in that case if the girl belonged to a poor family, she would obtain during these safeguarded years some regular employment of a suitable sort, and would thus by the time she reached sixteen years be safe from the perils of the kind dealt with in this clause. He hoped that the Government would consent to accept a clause which he believed to be of very high value for the maintenance of morals and discipline in our streets, and for the benefit of those on whose behalf he was pleading.

Amendments moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, line 6, to leave out from the word 'trade' to the end of the clause."

"After Clause 3, insert as a new clause: 'A girl under the age of sixteen years shall not be employed in street tradings, except under the provisions of specific by-law of the local authority sanctioning such employment.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

Lord BELPER said he was fully aware of the weight and authority with which the most rev. Primate spoke on that matter, which affected the material and moral well-being of children. He should have been very glad to have been able to take the same view on the point, but the matter having been fully considered since the debate of the previous day, he was obliged to say that the Government could not accept the Amendment. The most rev. Primate seemed to think that this was really a small change in the Bill. Far from that, it was really a rather serious one. What he proposed was to put in the place of local authorities having power to both make by-laws and to decide the conditions on which trade should be carried on, or, if they liked, to prohibit it, an absolute statutory prohibition of girls under the age of sixteen years being employed.

The Marquess of RIPON: No.

The LORD ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY: No.

Lord BELPER said the most reverend Primate added to that a provision that the local authority should be allowed, where they thought well, to make a specific by-law giving special exemptions to that statute. With regard to that, he ventured to say that it was a most unusual course, and there was no precedent for by-laws being made on the terms for Parliament to make an absolute general prohibition, and then for the local authorities to be allowed to make special exceptions in certain cases and places. What was likely to be the effect of that? He ventured to say that the effect would be that no local authority, knowing that Parliament had deliberately come to the conclusion that there ought to be an absolute prohibition of girls below sixteen years of age being allowed to trade, would make by-laws exempting them from that prohibition except under very exceptional circumstances indeed. No doubt it was possible that in some cases they might make them, but he ventured to think that the central authority, in the shape of the Home Office, would be put in a very invidious position to agree to a by-law which would give power to a local authority to except from this general prohibition, and which would be laid down if the Lord Archbishop's Amendment were to be accepted. He ventured to think that the result, if this Amendment was carried, would be practically a general prohibition, except in a very few cases. He would not repeat the arguments of the previous day, but would point out that the matter was very carefully considered in the other House. It was discussed not only in Grand Committee, but afterwards in the House of Commons, and actually the words of the Amendment, moved by the most rev. Primate were put on the Paper for discussion in the other House, and the Amendment was only withdrawn, on a compromise, when the subsection was put in, to which attention was called the previous day—viz., Subsection 3 of Clause 2, which provided that the local authority should have regard to the desirability of preventing the employment of girls under sixteen years of age. He earnestly appealed to their Lordships not to alter the Bill in the manner suggested, and not to make the provisions with regard to street trading more stringent than they already were.

There was no doubt that there was considerable difference of opinion on this and some other matters in the Bill. A certain number like the most rev. Primate would like to make this clause more stringent, and take away optional control from the local authority; but, on the other hand, there were others who thought the Bill went a great deal too far already. The Government did not wish to alter the Bill in that respect. They thought it would be fair to adhere to the Bill as it stood, and give the power to every local authority to deal with the district, over which they had control, in whatever way they thought best, they fully knowing the circumstances of the case. By leaving the piower to the local authority it was more likely that the sentiment of the country would be carried out, and it would not excite the same opposition and friction as would be raised if a general statutory prohibition were to be imposed. Therefore in the future, if it was thought desirable to strengthen this clause, there would be much more chance of doing so when the country had had experience of the working of the by-laws imposed, and fairly worked, by the local authorities. The Government could not accept the Amendment.

*EARL SPENCER said he regretted to hear the decision of the noble Lord. Without going into the question of the principle discussed the previous night, he should like to refer to two points touched upon by the noble Lord, who said this subject had been threshed out and considered in another place, and it would therefore be a pity to alter it. What happened in another place? The Grand Committee adopted the principle put forward by the most rev. Primate, and it was only reversed when the Government opposed it in the other House. The other point was that the noble Lord talked as if this Bill absolutely compelled the local authority to forbid these girls working. It did nothing of the kind. The noble Lord qualified his statement afterwards, but at the outset he put it very broadly that the Amendment would practically prevent the employment of these children.

LORD BELPER: I said it imposes an absolute statutory obligation of a prohibition of these children being employed, but I went on to say that it gave special power of exemption in certain cases to the local authority, which I thought was very unusual.

*EARL SPENCER said the noble Lord had also told them that this was a very unusual form of dealing with by-laws. But Clause 3 put it almost in the very same form, with regard to children, as the most rev. Primate put it in the Amendment. He deeply regretted that the Government, on what he ventured to describe as very flimsy reasons, objected to the proposal of the most rev. Primate, which would indicate, without compelling the local authority to adopt, what Parliament thought should be done in a matter that was really of very great importance to a large class of the community.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH) said the noble Earl seemed to think that the Amendment now proposed by the most rev. Primate had some similarity to that which was presented by the Grand Committee and was reversed by the wish of the other House. There was no parallel between the two. The Amendment of the Grand Committee was in favour of an absolute prohibition of all street trading by girls under sixteen years of age. That might be right or it might be wrong, but it was not the Amendment of the most rev. Primate. The only difference between the Government and the most rev. Primate was on which side the presumption should lie. The Bill gave the presumption that the girls should be employed unless they were prohibited, whereas the Amendment of the most rev. Primate gave the presumption that they should not be employed unless they were specially exempted. That was the issue before the House. He had had experience in framing by-laws for a good many years, and was bound to say that the ordinary form was the one in which the Bill now stood. He also believed it to be the preferable form, and that it would be the more satisfactory of the two. The most rev. Primate and the noble Earl seemed to forget that some of the great evils which came from utterly unregulated forms of street trading, had so arisen because there had been no power of prohibiting these girls from street trading at any period of their lives. They were now going to prohibit it up to fourteen years, and surely it was a fair presumption to say that, if they did that, the girls would have passed the dangerous age for running about the streets touting for custom. That experiment was well worth trying, and it was extremely undesirable to go further and run the risk of defeating their object by over stringency. Different regulations were necessary for different places. For instance, in the case of the smaller towns where girls came in from the country under the immediate supervision of their families, there was no case for interference at all. The Government had said that each popularly elected body should, under the sanction of the Home Office or the Education Department, make the regulations most useful for their particular districts, and he hoped their Lordships would not reverse the decision that had been arrived at.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER said the noble Lord had really stated a case for the Amendment. He had told them that the effect of the Amendment would be not to prohibit entirely this practice, but to set up a strong presumption against it. That was exactly what the mass of instructed opinion outside the House was in favour of doing. Sir John Gorst had stated during the debate in the House of Commons that the overwhelming body of opinion, of those who knew, was in favour of total prohibition. He (The Bishop of Rochester) was glad that the noble Lord pointed out that the Amendment which was sent to the House of Commons from the Grand Committee was not by any means the same as that which had been submitted by the most rev. Primate. The Grand Committee passed a clause of total prohibition, and he thought they might fairly say that the independent opinion of the House of Commons was decidedly in favour of what they were urging. That was the clause which the Government rejected in the House of Commons, but the Amendment now proposed was very much milder in character, and he could not help thinking that if the noble Duke were able to apply in this matter, the same treatment that had been given to the details of the Irish Land Bill, they could very fairly have looked to him to meet them on this point. They had gone as far as they could towards meeting the objections of the Government, and had tried different forms of this Amendment. The present form did no more than to ask the House to throw out the presumption against this form of trading. He could not believe that local bodies were so servile in their respect for the opinion of Parliament that they would not venture to differ from that opinion. It was only a small thing for which they asked, but it would be of some real value for the purposes of morality, and he earnestly asked the Government whether upon further consideration they could not make any concession in the matter.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill." Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 46; Not-Contents, 14.

CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Marlborough, D.
Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

Portland, D.
Wellington, D.

Ailesbury, M.

Winchester, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)

Abingdon, E.
Camperdown, E.
Cawdor, E.
Craven, E.
Dartrey, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Drogheda, E.
Grey, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Howe, E.
Morley, E.
Onslaw, E.
Rosse, E.
Selborne, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]

Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Belper, L.
Burnham, L.
Burton, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Rathdonnell, L.
Redesdale, L.
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Suffield, L.
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.
Worlingham, L. (*E. Gosford.*)
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.

Northumberland, D.

Ripon, M.

Crewe, E.
Northbrook, E.
Spencer, E.
Stamford, E.
Hereford, L. Bp.
Rochester, L. Bp.

Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*) [*Teller.*]
Emly, L.
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]
Welby, L.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said the next Amendments were entirely matters of machinery.

Amendments moved—

"In Clause 14, page 6, line 23, after the word 'jurisdiction' to insert as a new sub-section the words; '(3) Any fine or penalty under this Act shall be recoverable by imprisonment in terms of the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.' In line 27, after the word 'having' to insert the words 'within its boundary for police purposes.' "—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

LORD BELPER said he had been handed an Amendment which was not on the paper. It was merely a drafting Amendment.

Amendment moved--

"In Clause 16, page 7, line 37, to leave out Sub-section 1."

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

Second Report of the Select Committee considered (according to order), and agreed to.

SHEEP SCAB BILL.

Brought from the Commons. Read 1^{a}; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} To-morrow.—(*The Earl of Onslow.*) (No. 212.)

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

Brought from the Commons. Read 1^{a}; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} To-morrow. —(*The Lord President.* (*D. Devonshire*).) (No. 213.)

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered (on Motion) and agreed to.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter-past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 11*th August*, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went—and, being returned,

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. [See page 789].

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [Lords] [not amended], considered.

Ordered, that Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

(King's Consent signified.) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Ordered, that, in the case of the Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration, provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.

Bill, as amended, accordingly considered.

Ordered, that Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to Patriotic Fund Bill; Sugar Convention Bill; Naval Works Bill; Post Office Sites Bill; Ireland Development Grant Bill; without Amendment. Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill; Lerwick Harbour Improvements Act (1877) Amendment Order Confirmation Bill; without Amendment.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill; with an Amendment.

Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway Bill (by Order). Lords Amendments considered. Lords Amendment, in the Title, page 1, line 2, leave out "Railways," and insert "a Railway,' the first Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment." Debate arising.

Mr. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.), speaking on behalf of the Donegal County Council and the urban and rural districts, protested against the way in which the line, as originally proposed by the promoters, had been cut short by the Committee of the House of Lords.

The CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (**Mr. Wyndham**, Dover) expressed the hope, on the principle that half a loaf was better than no bread, that objection would not be taken at this stage to the Lords Amendments. At the same time, speaking on behalf of the Irish Government, he regretted that the Bill did not authorise the construction of the railway to Letterkenny, which would, undoubtedly, have been of enormous benefit to the fish industry of Donegal, and would have helped to give proper effect to the large sums of public money which had been spent at Burtonport and other places. But he hoped the promoters of the Bill, having so good a case, would resume their efforts on a future occasion.

Mr. MOONEY (Dublin Co., S.) concurred in the views expressed by Mr. O'Doherty and the Chief Secretary.

And it being after a quarter past Two of the Clock, the proceedings on consideration of the Lords Amendments were postponed, by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means, till this Evening's Sitting.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION ACT, 1902.

Petition from Loughborough, for repeal; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRAMWAY ORDERS.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under The Tramways Act, 1870, during the session of 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the six months ending 30th June, 1903, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Copy presented, of Return, in pursuance of Section 4 of The Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of Railway Servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions during the month of December, 1902, on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours at a time; or who, after being on duty more than twelve hours, were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours rest [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN IMPORT DUTIES.

Copy presented, of Statement of the Rates of Import Duties levied in European Countries, in the United States, in Japan, and in China, upon the Produce and Manufactures of the United Kingdom [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GAS AND WATER ORDERS.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under The Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, during the session of 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPORTS (WOOLLEN AND COTTON GOODS AND CUTLERY).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd July; *Colonel Denny*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 327.]

TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA, AND GERMANY.

Return presented, relative thereto ordered 24th June; *Mr. Loder*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 328.]

PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd July; *Sir Edgar Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 329.]

GAS UNDERTAKINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st May; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 330.]

GAS UNDERTAKINGS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st May; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 331.]

GAS COMPANIES (METROPOLIS).

Copy presented, of Accounts of the Metropolitan Gas Companies for the year 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 332.]

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 333.]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade on their Proceedings and Business under the Weights and Measures Acts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 334.]

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Report for the year 1902 on the Museums, Colleges, and Institutions under the administration of the Board of Education [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of General Reports on Higher Education, with Appendices for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Return showing the Number of Persons on the Teachers' Register under Regulation 52 (a) of the Teachers' Registration Regulations 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Statement of Schemes for the Formation of Education Committees, approved by the Board of Education, during the month of July 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ALIEN IMMIGRATION ROYAL COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of Alien Immigration, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. Vol I. Report [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUTION (CIVIL SERVICE) (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of Superannuation in the Civil Service, with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of Ireland for the year 1902. Part I. Criminal Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAWNBROKERS' RETURNS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Returns from the City Marshal of Dublin for the year ended 31st December, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Seventy-first Annual Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with Appendices, for the year ending 31st March, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PURCHASE OF LAND (IRELAND) ACT, 1891).

Copy presented, of Return of Advances under the Act during the year ended 31st March, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 335.]

RUSSIA (No. 1, 1903).

Copy presented, of Despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa, forwarding a Report on the Riots at Kishiniev [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3052 to 3055 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (AGRICULTURAL BANKS).

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee on the Establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies in India [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS (LONDON).

Further Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August, 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 336.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES

Disposal of Sewage from Walmer Marine Barracks.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if the Admiralty intend that the sewage from the marine barracks and the hospital at Walmer shall continue to be discharged crude into the sea unless the Walmer District Council establishes an improved sewage system; and will he explain why the Admiralty have refused to bear the cost of relaying the drain pipes on its own property.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The position as between the Admiralty and the Deal Council is as follows: The Admiralty look to the council, as the sanitary authority within whose district the marine barracks are situated, to provide an efficient drainage system, and until that is done the Admiralty drainage must of necessity go into the sea as hitherto. The refusal of the Admiralty to bear the cost of relaying the barrack drains is due to this work being rendered necessary solely through the omission of the council to make proper provision in their drainage scheme for dealing with the Admiralty property. The council have been repeatedly urged to revise their scheme in such a way that it will take the sewage from the Admiralty property without the necessity of relaying the drains, the cost of which they at present wish to put upon the shoulders of the Admiralty. The Admiralty have endeavoured to meet the council in a generous spirit, and have offered to relieve them of a portion of the expenditure to the extent of £1,450, including £500 for re-connecting the house drains, provided the council will bear the remainder, viz. the cost of relaying the main barrack drains, estimated at £1,600.

Prize Firing on H.M.S. "Highflyer."

Mr. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will explain why prize firing was not carried out during the current year on H.M.S. "Highflyer," which is the flagship of the admiral commanding on the East Indian Station.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) Prize firing was last carried out by H.M.S. "Highflyer" on the 24th and 25th September, 1902. No special report has been received as to the reasons for prize firing not having been carried out up to the present date in the current year, but it is probable that there has been no convenient opportunity, the vessel being under orders to return home. I may add that the "Highflyer" has expended the full practice allowance of ammunition on other firings, and has lately carried out some very instructive exercises in the shape of long range firing, with regard to which useful and interesting reports have been forwarded to the Admiralty.

Long Range Firing in the Mediterranean Fleet.

Mr. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to the fact that the contest for the trophy for long range firing in the Mediterranean Fleet has shown that only 135 hits were scored out of 962 rounds with the six-inch gun; and whether any report has been received by the Admiralty explaining the fact that only 14 per cent. of hits were made.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The reports on the recent Mediterranean long range firing have not yet been received at the Admiralty.

Legal Proceedings against the Irish Inland Revenue Office.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been directed to the statement of Judge Gibson that the Inland Revenue Department have always insisted that they were outside the judicature rules; and, if so, whether he will say if such instructions have been issued to the Irish Inland Revenue Office; and whether in future income tax payers in Ireland will have the same facilities in legal proceedings as taxpayers in Great Britain.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) I have seen a newspaper report of the recent case of the Attorney-General *v.* Humphrys, to which I presume the hon. Member refers, but I am informed that it does not give an accurate account of Mr. Justice Gibson's remarks. The procedure in revenue cases in Ireland is regulated by the Rules of the Supreme Court (Ireland), 1900 (Revenue), made by the Lord-Lieutenant on the recommendation of the Judges of the Supreme Court, of whom Mr. Justice Gibson was one, and the Rules are signed by him. If any change is desired in the procedure, it is open to the Judges to make new Rules. It is not considered that income tax payers in Ireland are at any disadvantage as regards legal proceedings, as compared with taxpayers in Great Britain.

Postal Order Business in England and Ireland.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will give the respective amounts of issues and payments of postal orders during each of the last ten years in Ireland and England respectively; also the amount expended for each of those years on the upkeep of the postal order branch in London, as distinct from the amount expended in connection with postal order work in the Accountant's Office, Dublin, and the Office of the Controller and Accountant-General, London.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The respective amounts of issues and payments of postal orders during each of the last ten years in Ireland and England (including Wales) were as follows:—

Financial Year.	England (and Wales).		Ireland.	
	Issues.	Payments.	Issues.	Payments.
	£	£	£	£
1893-4 - - - - - -	19,183,000	19,637,000	1,031,000	966,000
1894-5 - - - - - -	20,019,000	20,464,000	1,086,000	1,015,000
1895-6 - - - - - -	21,000,000	21,537,000	1,131,000	1,058,000
1896-7 - - - - - -	21,784,000	22,386,000	1,166,000	1,091,000
1897-8 - - - - - -	22,791,000	23,402,000	1,219,000	1,161,000
1898-9 - - - - - -	23,815,000	24,480,000	1,260,000	1,228,000
1899-1900 - - - -	25,036,000	25,815,000	1,302,000	1,297,000
1900-1901 - - - -	26,075,000	27,103,000	1,376,000	1,403,000
1901-2 - - - - - -	27,100,000	28,615,000	1,404,000	1,442,000
1902-3 - - - - - -	27,985,000	29,315,000	1,448,000	1,429,000

It is not possible to give the details asked for in the second part of the Question, but the total cost of clerical work in the Post Office in connection with postal orders (account work excluded) was about £44,000 a year for the old issue of fourteen denominations.

Decentralisation of the Post Office Savings Bank.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether, in view of the fact that the decentralisation of the War Office, with branches in Dublin, Aldershot, and other places, has led to greater administrative convenience and economy than when all the War Office accounts of the United Kingdom were kept at one central institution in London, he will explain in what way the decentralisation of the Post Office Savings Bank, with a branch in Dublin for Irish depositors, would lead to lesser administrative convenience and economy.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) As regards the advantages of centralising the business of the Post Office Savings Bank in London, I must refer the hon. Member to the replies which were given to him on the 30th June † and the 14th ultimo.‡ As regards the general question of decentralisation, the circumstances of the War Office and the Savings Bank are not the same, but much of the other work of the Post Office might well be decentralised if Members of this House did not so frequently insist upon the personal intervention of the Postmaster-General in matters of detail.

British Cemetery at Corfu.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any further information as to the proposed acquisition by the local authorities of Corfu of the old British naval and military burying ground.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) No further information has been received on this subject since my answer to the hon. Member for Wakefield on 17th June, to which I beg to refer my hon. and gallant friend.†

Disturbances at Kishiniev—Report of Consul-General at Odessa.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a Report has been received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa on the recent disturbances at Kishiniev, and the measures taken for punishing the rioters; and, if so, when it will be in the hands of Members.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 927.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxxv., 582.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 1159.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The Report has been received, and will be in the hands of Members to-morrow.

New Russo-German Commercial Treaty—Trusts and Syndicates.

MR. DAVID MORGAN (Essex, Walthamstow): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can give the particulars of the paragraph in the new Russo-German commercial treaty, relating to cartels, trusts, and syndicates, which the Russian Finance Minister has arranged shall be included in the commercial treaty.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) His Majesty's Government are in possession of no information as to the commercial negotiations now proceeding between the Russian and German Governments.

Post Office and Wireless Telegraphy.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Postmaster-General whether, before concluding an agreement with the Marconi Company for wireless telegraphy, any, and, if so, what, inquiry was made into the merits of other systems of wireless telegraphy; and, if so, will he state what reports were made as to their efficiency and economy; and whether any facilities were given to competitors with Marconi.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have not yet concluded any agreement with the Marconi Company, but I may perhaps say with reference to the hon. Member's Question, that other systems of wireless telegraphy have been under trial or examination by the Post Office, and reports made upon them. It would not, however, be desirable that such reports should be disclosed.

Postal Facilities at Rhosneigr.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that the last collection of letters at Rhosneigr takes place as early as 5.10 p.m.; and whether, in view of the fact that the mail train does not pass Tycroes station until 8.20, he will make arrangements to extend the time for posting letters.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The Question whether a later despatch of letters from Rhosneigr can be afforded is now under consideration.

India—Berars Surplus Revenue.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to alleged errors in the calculations upon which the annual sum of twenty-five lakhs, as representing the surplus revenue of the Berars, is paid to His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad under the agreement of December, 1902, and to the fact that, according to the Berars Administration Report of 1901–2, the surplus revenue of this district is estimated at over fifty lakhs; and, if so, whether he will refer these accounts for revision to an independent arbitrator; and whether the joint reports of Colonel Fordyce and Mr. Brunyate (made in 1900) will be presented to Parliament, together with the essential portions of the correspondence and State papers referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Despatch of the Secretary of State for India, dated the 28th of March 1878, dealing with this subject.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I am not aware of any errors in the calculations connected with the fixing of the perpetual rent of twenty-five lakhs to be paid to the Nizam under the agreement of the 5th November, 1902, relating to the Assigned Districts. The Administration Report of the Districts for 1901–2 shows a surplus of thirty-one lakhs, as against a deficit in the previous year, the improvement being caused by the cessation of drought and the collection of arrears of land revenue. I see no reason to refer these accounts to an independent arbitrator, or to lay on the Table the Reports mentioned by the hon. Member and the Papers referred to in the Despatch of the 28th March, 1878.

Charges on Indian Revenue for Military Works.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state what were the annual average net charges on the Indian Revenues for the Army for Military Works, and for Special Defence Works, in the periods 1863–1872, 1873–1882, 1883–1892, and 1893–1902, with the corresponding figures for the year 1902–3, and the Estimates for 1903–4.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

Period.	Average annual net Expenditure on		
	Army.	Military Works.	Special Defence Works.
	£	£	£
1862–3 to 1871–2 - - -	10,865.989	801,097 (gross)*	Nil.
1872–3 to 1881–2 - - -	12,023,224	737,022	Nil.
1882–3 to 1891–2 - - -	12,894,742	687,382	229,584
1892–3 to 1901–2 - - -	15,016,932	761,835	77,258
1902–3 (Revised Estimate) -	16,234,900	1,044,500	Nil.
1903–4 (Budget) - - -	16,652,300	1,009,700	120,000

* Receipts under this head not shown separately in the Accounts for this decade.

Charge on Indian Revenue for Delhi Durbar.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state what has been the total charge on the revenues of India, imperial and provincial, for the Delhi Durbar.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) Information on the subject has already been laid before Parliament in paragraphs 138 to 140 of the Financial Statement for 1903–4, and on page 14 of Command Paper 1644 (Account of the Durbar held at Delhi). I have no later figures.

Increase of British Troops in India.

MR. BUCHANAN: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether any request has been received from the Government of India in the course of the past year for an increase of the permanent British force in India.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) In reply to this Question I can only say that the question of the adequacy of the present strength of the British force in India has been and still is under consideration of myself and of the Government of India.

Workmens Compensation Act.

MR. CHARLES CAYZER (Barrow-in-Furness): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been directed to accidents to workmen in or near buildings of less than 30 feet in height for which, under the Employers Liability Act, they or their families are not entitled to compensation in case of injury or death, and to the fact that at Leeds lately a working painter fell 28 feet 6 inches and was killed, and his family received no compensation because the building was not 30 feet high; and, if so, whether he can see his way to introduce legislation to amend the Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. I presume that the hon. Member intends to refer to The Workmens Compensation Act, 1897, as there is no 30 feet limit with reference to the provisions of the Employers Liability Act. I am aware that under this limit, as fixed by the former Act in regard to accidents in the course of building operations, cases such as that mentioned in the Question must occur; and it has been stated more than once by myself and my predecessors that this is a point which must receive attention in connection with the Amendment of the Act which the Government have under consideration.

Safety of Hansom Cabs.

MR. CHARLES CAYZER: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been directed to an accident on Sunday, 26th July, to a hansom cab in Piccadilly, when the driver and a lady on the footpath were killed and another person was injured; and, if so, can he state the cause of the accident, and whether the position of the driver enabled him to have control over the horse; and whether he can now state the result of the experiments which the Commissioner of Police has been making with the view of securing the safety of passengers in cabs.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The circumstances of this accident were investigated by the coroner's jury, who found a verdict of "Accidental death, owing to the horse in the cab having taken fright from a cause unknown." The driver is reported to have been in his proper position, and to have done his best to check the horse, which was, however, beyond control. As regards the last part of the Question, I do not think I can add anything to the Answer which I gave the hon. Member on the 28th July.†

Remuneration of Witnesses in Criminal Cases.

MR. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has considered the Report of the Departmental Committee on the remuneration of witnesses in criminal cases; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any steps to carry out its suggestions at an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The Report of this Committee is now under my consideration, and I hope to be able shortly to make an Order, under 14 and 15 Vic., c. 55, s. 5, giving effect to the principal recommendations of the Committee.

Lead Poisoning Rules—Final Award.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is in a position to state when the final award in respect of the lead poisoning rules will be published.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) As the right hon Baronet is aware, the formal arbitration upon the lead poisoning rules has been closed, and it was hoped that the new rules would have been promptly published. In view, however, of the fact that a scheme of insurance which was contemplated is somewhat detailed the Umpire gave an undertaking that the persons interested should have an opportunity of considering, before it came into operation, the probable effect of the scheme. Unfortunately a difficulty has arisen in respect of a meeting for the purposes of such consideration, but the Umpire, notwithstanding the approach of the recess, will press the matter on as strenuously as possible.

Suggested Amendment of Poor Relief Act.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the advisability of amending the Poor Relief Act, 13 and 14 Vic, c. 101, s. 4, by an alteration of the words, "in or near the union," to remove doubt as to whether justices near the place where the children are, can receive the declaration referred to, and thus remove the doubt now existing as to whether these words may be taken as directory and not mandatory.

(*Answered by Mr Walter Long.*) I am advised that the provision referred to may be regarded as directory and not mandatory, though of course the question is not one which I am empowered to decide. I could not promise to introduce legislation to remove any doubt on the subject, but the point shall receive my consideration.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxvi., 540.

Victoria and Albert Museum—Exhibition of Collections.

SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether any decision has been arrived at as to the plans of the Victoria and Albert Museum so far as regards the arrangements for art and the exhibition of the collections.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The Board of Education have decided, with the approval of the First Commissioner of Works, that it would be desirable to revert to the original plans for the exhibition of the art collections. The matter awaits the consideration of the Treasury.

Covering over Shrine in Westminster Abbey.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): To ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, why the covering which was put over the Shrine of King Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey at the time of the Coronation has not been removed.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The covering referred to was, the First Commissioner understands, put up by the officers of the Dean and Chapter, and the Office of Works have no control over it.

Evictions in County Carlow.

MR. HAMMOND (Carlow): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what has been the number of tenants formerly resident in Carlow County who have been evicted from their holdings during the period from 1878 to the present time; and if he can furnish the names and addresses of said tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) A Return was recently circulated showing, by counties, the number of tenants evicted in Ireland within the past twenty-five years (H.C. No. 125, of 1903). I am inquiring whether it is practicable to give a nominal Return on the same subject.

Irish National School Teachers' Pensions.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what is the maximum number of years' service required from a second class male teacher to entitle him to full pension, and what is the amount of said pension per annum; and what is the provision made for such a teacher in case of retirement through ill-health before full service is rendered.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) A second class male teacher of a national school who elected to pay premiums in Class A must give forty years' service after the age of twenty-one to entitle him to the maximum pension of his class, £46 a year. In the event of retirement through ill-health before full service is rendered he might, if between the ages of thirty-five and fifty-five, receive a disablement grant under the terms of Pension Rule 10. If fifty-five years of age or upwards he could claim a voluntary pension, the amount of which would depend on his age and service at the time of his retirement.

Report of Commission on Dysentery.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Commission appointed in South Africa to inquire into the causation and prevention of dysentery in armies in the field have made their Report; and, if so, whether he is willing to lay it upon the Table.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Report was circulated to Members on the 8th instant.

Porthcawl Rifle Range.

MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware, with regard to the proposed abandonment of the proposed new rifle range at Porthcawl, that the Urban District Council has expended a sum of £1,000 upon an alteration of the local drainage outlet, made necessary for the sake of the proposed new range; and whether, under the circumstances, he is prepared to refund to the Urban District Council the amount of their outlay.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) It has been decided to proceed with the construction of this range.

September Army Manœuvres—Cost.

MR. FULLER: To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the estimated cost of the proposed manœuvres in September; and whether he can state the details of the two forces which, for the purposes of the manœuvres, will constitute respectively the 1st and 2nd Army Corps.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) £130,000 has been taken in Estimates to cover the cost of these manœuvres. The numbers and composition of the forces will not be published before the manœuvres begin.

South African War—Honorary Rank for Volunteer Officers—Right to wear the Uniform.

MR. SHAW (Stafford): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state what is the meaning of the War Office Order, in reference to uniform, that for services in South Africa officers of Volunteers were given honorary rank in the Army, with permission to wear the uniform of their company, corps, or battery, as the case may be, seeing that officers of Volunteer corps who have acquired this distinction, and are now again serving with their Volunteer corps, having provided themselves with the uniform of the Line battalion to which they are affiliated, and with which they served in South Africa, have been informed that they have no right to wear such uniform, but only the right to wear the uniform worn in South Africa, although such uniform however, being a special service uniform of khaki, is one which officers on Home service, and especially those serving with Volunteer battalions, have no opportunity of wearing.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Volunteer officers who were attached to Regular battalions in South Africa and granted honorary Army rank are entitled to wear the uniform they served in when in South Africa, but it was not contemplated they would desire to purchase the full or mess dress of the Regular battalion. The Question will receive further consideration.

Grants to Militia Regiments for Bands.

DR. THOMPSON: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will consider the advisability of increasing the grant to Militia regiments, so as to enable them to be supplied with at least a drum and fife band at their depôts, seeing that at these centres there is no military music available.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) No representations to this effect have been made by any corps, and I should not be justified in proposing an increase of the grant towards band expenses, and thereby throwing fresh expenditure upon the public funds, without strong reasons.

Busbies for Militia Fusilier Regiments.

DR. THOMPSON: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will explain why the Militia Fusilier Regiments are not supplied with busbies, seeing that on the visit of the King to Derry last month the officers of the 3rd and 5th Battalions Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, which formed part of the guard of honour, were obliged to hire the busbies for their men from a London dealer, who is in the habit of buying the left-off busbies of Fusilier Line Regiments, and who resells or hires them to Militia regiments.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Militia Fusilier Regiments are not supplied with full dress head-dress owing to the heavy expense involved. Nothing is known of the hiring mentioned.

Rights of Discharged Non-Commissioned Officers to Wear Uniform.

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will cause inquiries to be made into the case of F. Edmed, formerly a sergeant instructor in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, as to whether, by wearing the King's uniform, he was enabled to get credit from and defraud certain tradesmen in Rhosllanerchrugog, North Wales, and as to whether he was on retirement or discharge from the Army specially recommended by his commanding officer to wear his uniform; and, if not, what steps he proposes to take to prevent such conduct in the future.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) This is a case in which I think any action which may be considered necessary may safely be left to the discretion of the General Officer commanding the district concerned.

Deportation of British Subjects on the Island of Tristan d'Acunha.

MR. FULLER: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will communicate to Lord Milner and the Colonial Governments in South Africa the wish of the British subjects in the Island of Tristan d'Acunha that they should be deported to South Africa; and further, if no objection is taken to such deportation, whether he will confer with the Admiralty and the Treasury as to the necessary steps for carrying it into effect.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) I have communicated with the Governor of Cape Colony on the subject, but I fear that in any case no definite arrangements could be come to for some time.

Controller and Auditor-General—Amount Audited—Cost of Auditing Irish Public Accounts.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury what is the total amount audited by the Controller and Auditor-General during each of the past ten years for Ireland and England respectively; and what is the actual or approximate cost during each of those ten years for auditing the Irish public accounts.

(*Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.*) The approximate cost during each of the last ten years of auditing the Irish public accounts is as follows:—Estimated cost, 1892–3 £7,128, 1893–4 £7,478, 1894–5 £8,051, 1895–6 £8,505, 1896–7 £9,182, 1897–8 £9,538, 1898–9 £9,200, 1899–1900 £8,882, 1900–1901 £9,161, 1901–2 £9,928. The above sums are inclusive of non-effective charges, works, rates, postage, and stationery, etc. It is impossible to give the hon. Member the figures for which he asks in the first half of his Question, but I would refer him to the annual Financial Relations Return.

Money Expended on Museums, Art Galleries, etc., in Scotland and Ireland.

MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state the total amount of money, including sums provided from local sources, expended on buildings for national museums, libraries, and art galleries in Scotland and Ireland respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) The following are the figures, so far as I have been able to ascertain them:—Edinburgh: National Gallery and Royal Institution—£33,620 from public funds, £20,430 spent by the Board of Manufactures; the site was given by the City of Edinburgh. Museum of Antiquities and National Portrait Gallery—From public funds, £24,286; Board of Manufactures, £2,500; from private sources, £30,000; Museum of Science and Art—From public funds, £97,395 (exclusive of cost of widening Chambers Street, which was carried out by the City Council of Edinburgh at a cost of £51,000). Dublin: Science and Art Museum and National Library—From public funds, £219,031. I am unable to state the original cost of the Natural History Museum prior to its transfer to the Board of Works in 1868; National Gallery—From public funds, £47,306; from Dargan Trustees, £5,000.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Illegal Arrest for Desertion—Potter's case

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): On behalf of the hon. Member for South Donegal, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the observations of the magistrate in the Southwark Police Court in the case of Henry Potter, a carman charged with desertion from the 16th Lancers, stationed at Ballincollig, Ireland, who was not a soldier of that regiment but a Reservist, the holder, with five clasps, of the South African medal, and a repeated applicant at the War Office for a sum of £50 due to him for reserved pay, upon the neglect of the War Office authorities in wrongly arresting this man; and, if so, will he say what steps the War Office intend to take in this matter, and what explanation, if any, has he to make for this occurrence.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (LORD STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I regret to say that a serious error was committed in this case. The military authorities inform me that the chief paymaster, Home District, overlooked the fact of this man having reported himself on transfer to the Reserve, and he was accordingly arrested by the police. On investigation he was immediately released. No application had been received at the War Office for the money in question, which was mainly due on a savings bank account which had not been transmitted by his regiment from South Africa. His reserve pay and his savings bank balance have been paid. His claim to deferred pay is being investigated. The officer to blame carried on an exceptionally arduous charge during the War with great success, but the failure in this instance is none the less regrettable.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Will the man get any compensation for this illegal arrest?

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir.

Army Entrance Examinations.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Board appointed to advise the Inspector General of Military Education have yet recommended a syllabus for use at examinations for entrance to the Army; if so, will he state what action he proposes to take on their recommendation, and when the new regulations governing future examinations will be made public.

*LORD STANLEY: The Advisory Board have recommended a syllabus which will shortly be issued. I know the importance of getting this out before the beginning of the school term, and I will do my best to hurry on the publication.

Liberian Wreckers.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the conduct of subjects of the Republic of Liberia in forcibly boarding, looting, and interfering with the salvage of the British steamer "Haussa," which went ashore on the 8th June at Garaway, Liberia; and, if so, whether he has made any representations to the Liberian Government on the subject.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E., for Lord CRANBORNE): My attention was drawn to this case by the owners, and the Acting British Consul at Monrovia was instructed by telegraph that if the alleged plundering of the ship was true, he was to remind the Liberian Government of their treaty obligations in regard to wrecks. But before this telegram reached the Acting Consul he had, on information received from the Sierra Leone Coaling Company, already communicated with the Liberian Government, and the Liberian Secretary of State had ordered the superintendent at Cape Palmas to give Lloyd's agent absolute control over the hull and the cargo.

Cattle Shipments from Boston.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: I beg to ask the hon. Member for North Hunts, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the Board have been notified of the removal by the United States Government on 20th July last of the embargo on the shipment of cattle from Boston, the New England States having been declared free from disease; and, if so, why the prohibition at present existing against the importation into this country for slaughter of cattl shipped at Boston is still maintained; and when its removal may be expected.

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): We have received a copy of the Order issued by the United States Government withdrawing, as from the 20th ult., the prohibition against the exportation of animals from Boston. The information communicated to us by that Government as to the history of the recent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, and the reasons which have led to the conclusion that the disease has been completely extirpated, is, however, not as yet sufficient to justify my noble friend in concluding that all danger of its introduction into the United Kingdom is at an end. I have made inquiry as to when the further information required is to be expected, and I understand that a detailed despatch on the subject may be expected at any moment. It will receive consideration immediately it comes to hand. We are well aware of the importance of the subject so far as shipowners are concerned.

Board of Education—Consulting Architect.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, S. Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education what length of time Mr. Robson has served as consulting architect to the Board of Education; whether he has received notice that his services will be terminated on the 30th September; is such notice due to his incompetence; if not, what is the reason for it; and whether, in view of appeals permitted by the Education Act to be made by the denominational managers to the Board of Education, he will take steps to secure that the highest expert assistance shall continue to be at the service of the Board.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): Mr. Robson has been engaged for eighteen and a half years as consulting architect to the Board of Education. His engagement will terminate on 30th September. No question of the competency of Mr. Robson is involved. The Board of Education are making new arrangements to meet new conditions, and will, of course, take care that they are now properly provided with expert assistance in the matters to which the Question refers.

MR. LAMBERT asked what were the new arrangements.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: They are incomplete as yet.

Donegal Magistracy.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Donegal I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what is the cause of the delay in the appointment of a local magistrate for the parish of Killaghtie; and whether, seeing that on Monday the 3rd August a lunatic in the Dunkineely district had to be taken over five miles to Killybegstown, owing to the want of a local magistrate in Killaghtie, this state of things will be immediately rectified.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): No representation appears to have been made to the Lord Chancellor as to the necessity for additional magistrates in this district. Inquiry is being made in the matter, however.

St. John's Point.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Donegal, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why the Congested Districts Board have delayed the splitting up into suitable holdings of the grass farms purchased two years ago for the fishermen of St. John's Point, who at present have no land; and whether the necessary steps for this purpose will be immediately taken.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Congested Districts Board is not responsible for the delay that has occurred. The tenants on the estate and in the neighbourhood refused to give their labour in the erection of boundary fences for the new holdings at the wages offered by the Board (2s. 6d. a day for able bodied men). Another effort to resume work will be made in October.

Royal Irish Constabulary.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the

Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware of a circular issued from the office of the Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary, dated 20th July, 1903, which forbids the medical attendants of the Royal Irish Constabulary calling in consultation any other medical man or specialist under any circumstances; and, if so, will he cause the instant withdrawal of the circular.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The circular merely recited a rule which has been in operation for upwards of thirty years. The rule in no way prevents sick members of the force from employing medical men other than the police medical attendants. It merely points out that such medical assistance cannot be paid for from public funds. It is not proposed to withdraw the circular.

Dr. THOMPSON: Then, in the event of a constable suffering from a severe surgical illness he is expected, should a specialist be called in, to pay the fees out of his own pocket.

Mr. WYNDHAM: They cannot be paid out of public funds.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): But the man can be treated at the hospital at the ratepayers' expense.

Corglass and Connakelly Estates.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any fresh proposals have been made to the Land Commission for the purchase of the Corglass and Connakelly properties, the owners of which are willing to sell to the tenants.

Mr. WYNDHAM: There are no proceedings pending in the Land Commission for the sale of the lands in question. In accordance with the undertaking given by me to the hon. Member on a former occasion[†], I referred the matter to the Land Judge. He interrogated the solicitor having carriage of the sale on the 9th July, and was satisfied that the solicitor was not responsible for any delay. There appears to have been a difficulty with one of the owners in procuring the lodgment of deeds to prove title. The Land Judge will have the matter before him again after the vacation.

County Longford Market Tolls.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the practice of levying tolls at fairs and markets, at present exercised by landlords in several small towns of county Longford, will be continued if these owners sell their interests to the tenant; whether he is aware that these tolls are levied mostly for private gain and not for the upkeep of any easements to the fairs or markets; and, if so, whether he can provide for their withdrawal.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The tolls cannot be levied by landlords unless the legal right to do so is vested in them. Section 31 of the Local Government Act, 1898, confers on urban authorities power to purchase these rights.

Ireland—Labourers Acts.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a letter dated 21st June, 1901, No. 11,337, written on behalf of the Lord Justices on the subject of the unissued balances of the Labourers Cottages Grant, 1890, stating that the shares of the unions which had not put the Labourers Acts into operation would be forthwith distributed amongst the unions which had done so; and, if so, will he explain why this course has not been adopted, and will it be adopted in the near future.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The letter referred to in the Question stated that the shares of the unions which had not put the Labourers Acts in force would be distributed amongst those unions which had done so, and that the money would be remitted not to the local authorities direct, but to the Commissioners of Public Works to be applied by them in reduction of loans granted for the purposes of the Acts. This course was accordingly adopted.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 1179.

Rathcline (Annually) Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many of the tenants on the Rathcline (Annually) Estate are still denied the right of purchase; and whether, in the case of those so remaining, he will represent to the receiver the advisability, in the interests of the estate, of accepting the tenants' offers, and let the sales go through.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of tenants on the estate who have not been declared purchasers is nineteen. The right to purchase has not been denied to any of these. In four cases the Land Commission decided that the tenants should buy their holdings for cash. In seven cases the Commissioners required certain holdings to be consolidated before making advances. In the remaining eight cases no applications for advances have been made.

Belfast Water Supply.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Belfast Water Commissioners have compulsorily taken over some hundreds of farms within the catchment of area in the district of Carrickfergus, and that, although it is almost a year since evidence was taken before the arbitrator for the purpose of assessing compensation to the tenants, the awards have not yet been made; and, if so, whether in view of the inconvenience caused by the delay, the arbitrator will be requested to at once make his awards.

MR. WYNDHAM: The final awards of the arbitrator have been made and published in respect of four sections of the proposed works. The award in the case of the remaining section will be completed after the approaching harvest. The delay is in the interests of the tenants.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.): May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he intends to proceed with the Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill is in an exceptional position, having passed the Report stage. I hope, in the circumstances, it will be possible to pass it into law, but I cannot derogate from the position I have laid down, that unless it is treated as uncontroversial it cannot be proceeded with.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I understand it is intended to take the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill on Friday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes.

MR. BRYCE: I see on the Orders three Bills which I understood the right hon. Gentleman to indicate would be dropped. Has anything occurred to change that decision?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No. The Prevention of Corruption Bill; the Bills of Exchange Acts Amendment Bill, and the Light Railways Bill cannot be proceeded with. I propose, of course, to carry over the Port of London Bill.

MR. BRYCE: Would it not be well that at the beginning of next session the House should meet at a somewhat later hour than two o'clock, seeing that there is a general feeling in favour of such an alteration of the rule. Would it not be possible to agree to the necessary alteration of the rule this session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am quite ready to meet at a later hour provided that public business be begun at three o'clock as at present. The hon. Gentleman the Member for Waterford, however, is quite ready to meet at a later hour, but is not ready to begin public business at the same hour as at present, and therefore there is not that common agreement on the matter which the right hon. Gentleman appears to suppose.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): What will be the business on Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Indian Budget will be taken on Thursday.

*SIR **CHARLES DILKE**: There is likely to be a prolonged debate on the Indian Budget this session?

MR. **A. J. BALFOUR**: I recognise that is so.

MR. **ALFRED DAVIES** (Carmarthen Boroughs): Can the right hon. Gentleman say how the inquiry into the conduct of the South African War is going on, and when we shall have the printed Report in our hands?

MR. **A. J. BALFOUR**: That is a Question of which I should have notice, for we have no control whatever over the proceedings of the Commission.

LIGHT LOAD LINE.

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House a copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships on the Light Load Line, with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, etc.—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Marriages Legalisation Bill; Irish Land Bill; Employment of Children Bill, with Amendments.

IRISH LAND BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 322.]

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 323.]

MILITARY LANDS BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 324.]

IRISH VALUATION ACTS.

Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up, and read [Inquiry not completed]; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 337.]

NEW BILL.

ECCLESIASTICAL SUITS BILL.

"To repeal certain enactments and otherwise to amend the Law relating to Ecclesiastical Suits," presented by Lord Hugh Cecil; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 321.]

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. **ROBSON** (South Shields) said he gathered from information given to the House that a substantial number of the servants of the State were engaged in collecting statistics for the ostensible purpose of enabling the Government to make up its mind as to what was to be its future fiscal policy. The collection of statistics for such a purpose must be conducted on a very elaborate and costly scale, at the expense of the State, and in fact out of funds appropriated by this Bill. The House was entitled and even bound to discuss that expenditure. Hitherto the House had not been asked to authorise the expenditure which they were informed had been incurred.

THE **PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY** (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have given no information to that effect, and I do not know that any other Minister has. I do not think there has been any such expenditure incurred.

MR. **ROBSON** thought the right hon. Gentleman could scarcely have reflected on what was involved in the information he had already given. They had been informed that this inquiry was being conducted by the servants of the State. The servants of the State were paid by that House. Therefore this inquiry must be additional to their ordinary work of administration.

Mr. **A. J. BALFOUR**: No, Sir, that is a mistake. The collection of statistical information is part of their ordinary duties.

MR. ROBSON was much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman. In that case, the collection of statistics for a general inquiry into the fiscal policy was part of the ordinary duty of the servants of the State. Prior to that answer, there might have been some doubt as to whether the expenditure on these inquiries ought not to be left over for discussion on the Supplementary Estimates. But the hesitancy and uncertainty that had existed in the in the minds of hon. Members of the House as to how far this debate would be allowed to proceed on these lines must now he thought disappear.

*MR. SPEAKER: It must not be taken by the hon. Member that I have any doubt in my mind that it is not competent to discuss on this Bill the future fiscal policy of the Government, or the merits of the inquiry which is to be gone into. They are not relevant to anything in this Bill. If it were otherwise, it would be possible on a statement, or even a suggestion, by a Minister, that in the next session the Government proposed to bring in a particular Bill, to discuss that Bill, or the policy of that Bill, on the Appropriation Bill, of the preceding session. Nothing of that character is permissible.

MR. ROBSON · On the point of order, was sure the Speaker would acquit him either of contesting his ruling or unduly arguing it; but one might, in a matter of such interest and importance, submit some considerations which did not appear to enter into the observations just made from the Chair. He submitted that this was a matter relating to the ordinary expenditure of the year, and, although its ultimate issue in legislation might not be discussed, the expenditure for the present was an administrative act, and, like every other administrative act it would be in order to refer to it in a discussion in regard to the salary of any particular Minister concerned. That consideration alone might be conclusive as regarded the practice of the House. But he submitted another. According to the invariable practice of the House, the Appropriation Bill had been adopted as the means of a general discussion of not merely the acts of this or that particular Minister, but of the acts of all the Ministers and their Departments taken together. The Leader of the Opposition had always seized the occasion presented by this Bill to discuss at large not merely the past conduct of the Ministry, but the conduct of the Ministry in relation to its future general administrative policy. Lord Hartington did this year after year. Mr. Disraeli did it year after year when Leader of the Opposition; and if that privilege was lost one of the most essential and vital privileges of the House would be gone. This, that, or the other matter might be discussed on a vote of censure, but for a discussion of the whole policy of the Administration they had only the Appropriation Bill or nothing. He had every confidence that the Speaker desired to interpret the traditions of the House in a sense conformable to its general practice, but surely there could be very little doubt that they were entitled to raise the whole policy of the Ministry and its administrative acts on that occasion. That the direction of this inquiry was an administrative act was clear from the statement just made by the First Lord of the Treasury. If they had not the power to discuss that act, then they had not got the power possessed by every other legislative Assembly in the world of discussing on some occasion the whole policy of the Ministry. It could not surely be said that their power to raise the discussion depended entirely on the will of the Leader of the Opposition with regard to a vote of censure. It should be a part of their regular procedure. He submitted it had always been a part of their procedure, and if they were not allowed now to adopt it the House would lose a privilege and right which was essential to the proper performance of its duties to its constituents.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) asked whether it would not be in order on the Appropriation Bill to bring in an Amendment censuring a particular Minister; whether, if that were in order, it would not also be in order to comment on the conduct of a particular Minister; and whether that would not only apply to the conduct and administration of a particular Department, but also to so much of his political conduct as was reasonably relevant, and to the confidence the House felt in a Minister or any body of Ministers.

*MR. SPEAKER: My answer to the noble Lord would partly depend on the meaning to be attached to the words "reasonably relevant." With reference to the remarks of the hon. Member for South Shields, if I thought that—if there was the slightest doubt in my mind as to whether or not—by any ruling of mine I was taking away any privilege of the House, the House will believe that I would not run any risk of doing so; but I am confident that, whenever the question has been raised, it has always been ruled that the Appropriation Bill stands exactly in the same position as other Bills. Whatever is debated must be relevant to the clauses of the Bill. The hon. Member justly says this Bill includes the salaries of the Ministers of the Crown, and therefore, their administrative conduct may be discussed on the Appropriation Bill. But the right goes no further. The hon. Member's proposal, as I understand it, is to go further than that, and to discuss the collection of information with a view to a policy which can only be carried out by legislation in a future session. I do not think anything the hon. Member has said is an answer to what I have said as to such a proceeding. If it were proposed to bring in a Redistribution Bill in a future session, and somebody asked a question in answer to which he learned that clerks in the Board of Trade and other offices were being employed in getting up statistics with regard to population and so forth, you cannot, on that answer, claim to discuss the proposed legislation of the future session. That is the ground on which I am of opinion that the hon. Member is not in order.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I gather from your ruling that it would be in order on the Appropriation Bill to discuss the administrative action or inaction of any particular Minister. May I not also submit to you that it is clearly in order on the Appropriation Bill to discuss the action or inaction of the Government, as a whole, in their administrative capacity? If, for the sake of hypothesis, the Government as a whole propose in their administrative capacity to undertake a particular inquiry into a particular subject matter, and if, for the purposes of that inquiry, the services of persons in the employment of the State, whose salaries and expenses are paid by this House, are admitted to be necessary, is it not within the competence of the House, on the Appropriation Bill, to discuss the circumstances out of which the inquiry has arisen, the manner in which it is being conducted, and the results which it is likely to produce, entirely without reference to any legislative proposal which may hereafter be produced?

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not think it is possible to debate the question entirely without reference to legislative action. A debate on the inquiry as to the future policy is a debate on the policy itself. I am therefore of opinion the debate is not in order.

MR. ASQUITH: Do I understand you to rule it is not open to us on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill to discuss whether or not there is any necessity for such an inquiry to take place?

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes, exactly in the same way in which it is not open to the House on the Appropriation Bill to discuss whether or not there is any necessity for collecting information for a Redistribution Bill.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he was not contesting the ruling of the Chair, but he had a new point.

*MR. SPEAKER: I hope it is a new point. I hope there will be an end to this discussion after the ruling I have given.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he should like to ask whether they could discuss the inquiry itself without any reference at all to its object or method.

*MR. SPEAKER said that if any hon. Member could discuss the question without reference to future legislation he should hear him, and he would intervene when he thought it right.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said he had a Question to ask with reference to the action of the Treasury officials.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Member for South Shields is in possession of the House.

MR. ROBSON said he did not propose to proceed, having regard to the limited scope to which the ruling of the Speaker confined the discussion.

MR. DALZIEL asked whether any report had been received from any Treasury official in response to the inquiry by the Government for such a Return, and if it had been received what was its character, and would it be made public. He wished to point out that the permanent officials were the servants of the House, paid by the House, and the House therefore had a right to inquire as to how they discharged their duties. If Returns had been made with regard to the fiscal policy of this country they were of an important character, and it was desirable that the House should know the purport of them. He would ask further if any Returns had been received from the Board of Trade and would they be published.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that the Board of Trade had published a good deal of information with regard to the hours of labour, wages, and the conditions of employment in particular trades of particular districts at home, and also some invaluable documents with regard to trade abroad. He wished to know whether the Board, in the course of the inquiry it was now conducting, could extend that information with respect to all trades in France and Germany; and also give particulars as to the cost of living abroad. It was very difficult to discover from the official documents of the Board of Trade what the real condition of the trade of the country was. He had been told that the method of obtaining these statistics was not reliable. Information with regard to the shipping, engineering and textile trades was obtained only from particular districts, but now that so much importance attached to the subject the information should be obtained from the whole country and not from particular districts. It was very desirable to let the public know what was the aggregate amount of wages earned in this country, also as to the cost of living abroad and the hours of labour. He should like to know, further, how the figures with regard to exports and imports were arrived at. There ought to be no difficulty in getting accurate official information as to the condition of our trade. On the face of it, the position seemed to be that we were losing something like £150,000,000. It was very desirable to have a balance-sheet. He was told that this country was earning between £70,000,000 and £80,000,000 in respect of shipping. The trade Returns showed nothing of that. Then, as to our investments abroad. He was told we had invested abroad some £200,000,000. [A VOICE: More.] Very well then, let the House and the country be informed. All this information ought to be published year after year so that the nation might be able at any moment to see what its commercial position was. That was the most effective way to stop these foolish panics about our trade. We heard a good deal about our trade abroad, but we got little information about our trade at home. The Board of Trade ought to make it its business to get statistics with regard to the value of our industries at home. In the case of Canada and the United States the fullest information was collected by the Government and issued in Parliamentary Papers. Why could not the same be done in this country? I think that with regard to "dumping" we could get a lot of information. This is a sort of thing which is very misleading unless you get accurate information. I think we should get this information in our official books. We hear a great deal about Germany sending steel bars and how that affects certain industries. We want information as to how it acts for the benefit of another industry. This is the sort of information which the President of the Board of Trade knows can be obtained and ought to be obtained and published. I am sure the right hon. Gentleman would be the first to admit that it is important that these books should be brought up to date and made more complete. Take for instance steel bars which we call "dumped" from Germany. You will not get in the Board of Trade books the fact that these steel bars dumped here have been keeping the tin plate trade in this country alive. That is the kind of information we want, and which I hope will be published. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that this has no reference whatever to fiscal inquiry, but I am simply asking that these books should be brought up-to-date, because this is one way of exploding the mad theories which are in the air now.

The Prime Minister has been taking soundings for the last few months, and I should like to know if he has yet discovered where he is and when he is going to publish all this information. I understand that he is going to publish certain figures with regard to our trade. I think I am entitled to ask when that information is going to be published and whether it will be published by the Board of Trade or by the Cabinet as a whole. What steps are the Board of Trade taking to obtain a full knowledge with regard to the position of our industries? Are they obtaining full information with regard to shipbuilding? I should like to know whether our shipbuilding industry will come within the scope of the inquiry, and what condition it is in and whether its prosperity is not very largely due to the fact that we are importing cheap steel bars from abroad. The House and the country ought to be in possession of these facts. Nobody is afraid of inquiry and all we want is a *bonâ fide* inquiry and not one which is conducted within sealed doors. We are quite willing to take the information given to us by the Government, and we want all these facts and figures; we do not, however, want them given partially, or with any bias, but we want information that extends all round and gives the condition of wages in this country. I see that the statistics of the wages of the stonemasons are published this year. But you cannot produce figures for a fair comparison unless they are complete, and that is the sort of information we want. I trust the right hon. gentleman will not get information which is sufficient for him to make up his own mind because we want complete information. I believe the Cabinet are collecting lots of information and I should like to know when he is going to publish it. I heard something stated about September. Is the Cabinet going to consider what they are going to publish, and are they going to decide what information will be useful and what is not? I believe there is going to be a Cabinet Council held, and it is going to be opened at Sheffield at the beginning of October. No doubt the Prime Minister will call upon the Colonial Secretary to open the matter, and we should have somebody replying upon the whole thing. We ought to get the information ourselves, and I hope the Prime Minister will give it as soon as he possibly can and get evidence, not depending upon anonymous letters in *The Times* by Revenue officials which carry no weight—and which are written by persons who are probably not Revenue officials at all—but something that will be given upon the responsibility of a responsible Department like the Board of Trade or the Treasury. That is the sort of information we want, and if we get that I do not think we need fear the result.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is perfectly true, as I have told the House over and over again, and even this afternoon, that the Board of Trade are supplementing the not inconsiderable body of information they already publish annually; and I have also told the House on previous occasions that we trust a considerable instalment of the Papers will be in the hands of Members at no distant date. But it must be remembered that it is not only the collection of figures and the preparation of statistical tables that is involved, but the verification of the figures, after the proofs have been prepared, is itself a very long and very responsible duty. It would be very unfortunate if the Board of Trade were to issue figures which might be inaccurate, when by waiting a few weeks longer they could be revised.

MR. ASQUITH: Will the right hon. Gentleman allow me to ask him to be a little more specific. What does he mean by the phrase "at no distant date?"

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not follow the right hon. Gentleman. I am at the beginning of my speech, not at the end of it, and I hope he will allow me to reply. I hope that certainly in the course of the next four weeks—I will not pledge myself to the date—there will be a very large and very important instalment of information in addition to the information which the Board of Trade already publish. This will not necessarily conclude the investigation. I have no doubt whatever that when this instalment, this body of Papers, is published, there will be other subjects, and they will themselves probably suggest other subjects on which the Board of Trade may very properly exercise themselves. I daresay such other subjects will suggest themselves to the Government, and I daresay they will suggest subjects to Members on both sides and to independent critics in the country. We have no desire whatever except to give all the information in our power to the House and the country, in order to enable them to make up their minds, so far as statistics will give the desired knowledge, upon any important problem that may have been raised or may be hereafter raised. On some of those points the hon. Member who has just sat down will obtain great enlightenment from the volume about to be published. But it must be remembered that it is most desirable, when dealing with Government Departments, that you should not allow the region of conjecture to play too great a part. There are some statistical works which must have conjecture in them, and, if that is clearly set out as an element of doubt, there may be great advantage in introducing a certain amount of the conjectural element. But it ought to be done cautiously—and for this reason. There is a great deal of very violent feeling existing at the present moment. How long it will last I do not know. I see it reflected in the agitated minds of the hon. Gentlemen opposite. As soon as you get public opinion into a heated and excited condition it is all important that you should keep the permanent Civil Service of this country outside the vortex. For my part, and I think I can speak for all my colleagues, we are clearly of opinion that that is our first duty. If you are going to ask the Departments to prepare Papers into which very large conjectural, theoretical, and controversial elements enter, I do not see how they can do it without introducing the personal equation, or how it is possible to ask them to deal with the subject in that way without endangering that absolutely non-Party and impartial attitude of mind which is the safety of our permanent Civil Service. Therefore I would never think of asking a public Department to provide the public with information for a theoretical discussion on questions that have been raised or anything which contained too much of the theoretical element. I believe hon. Members opposite, if they can consider this subject apart from the rather heated atmosphere in which it has been started, will agree that the rules I have laid down are the right ones. It is a limited consideration when we are dealing with some of the information which is constantly asked for, but subject to that, and to the inherent difficulties which necessarily attach to a great deal of the statistical work, we are only too glad within the physical capacity of the Department that the information which the House and the country desire should be supplied. I do not think that I can add anything useful to these observations. A considerable amount of information asked for is in the Papers published, and I am sure that if the hon. Member will communicate with the head of the Department his inquiry will receive that consideration which it undoubtedly deserves. I understand that this question has been raised on the salary of the President of the Board of Trade. I have seen something of the work of that Department, and I can assure the House that there is not a more hard-working and more absolutely impartial body of men. At all events, I have not the smallest idea what the opinion of any single official is in the Board of Trade on any of these controversial questions. I have never asked them, never put a leading question to them, and they have never proffered an opinion. That is the proper way to deal with a public Department, and I hope we shall be supported in that policy.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): There were two remarks that fell from the Prime Minister which I think justify the closeness of the inquiry addressed to him, and justify my hon. friends who have raised this very limited debate The Prime Minister said that the results of this inquiry will be published at no distant date, and in reply to the interruption across the Table of my right hon. friend, he was precise and said that within the next four weeks a considerable portion of this inquiry, if not the whole, would be in the hands of Members. Now the Leader of the other House said he had every hope that before the end of the session the greater portion of the information would be furnished.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I can assure the right hon. Baronet that the Board of Trade has been working as hard as it is physically possible for men to do, and the thing could not be done.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: We are not responsible for the way in which this inquiry has been forced upon the Board of Trade, nor for the suddenness with which the issue has been raised. The other remark of the Prime Minister was where he spoke of the part played by the conjectural element. He said the element of conjecture should be used cautiously. Our complaint is that the element of conjecture has not been used cautiously.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: In which Return of the Board of Trade has it not been used cautiously?

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: I am in the hands of the House, and I deplore the action of the Government in forcing this question upon the country. In my opinion it is a matter we should have been able to discuss. The Prime Minister says that the element of conjecture should be used cautiously.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: In the Board of Trade and Government Official Returns.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: The right hon. Gentleman says he speaks for all his colleagues in this direction, and yet when it is being attempted to show that the suddenness with which the matter has been forced upon the country, and that the disturbance to trade the raising of the issue has produced, has been the act of a single Minister, other Ministers are going round the country saying that it is for this reason that they support the Colonial Secretary in the wise declarations he has made. I think the House will see that the element of conjecture has not been used with that caution which the Prime Minister promised for all his colleagues. We hold the Government responsible for having disturbed the trade of the country, by the manner in which they have forced this question on the country.

Lord HUGH CECIL: I understand that we are entitled to refer to the salaries of ministers. The Bill includes the salary of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has been officially declared to have given a general approval to the issue of a very large number of leaflets, which certainly import into the inquiry a very large amount of the conjectural element. We are reasonably entitled to complain that a Minister of the Crown should approve of private utterances on a public question when the Government of the day are supposed to be conducting an inquiry. I am quite unable to understand why it is that the Board of Trade and the Treasury are confined rigidly to official utterances and official documents, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies is allowed larger discretion, and is allowed to publish on a scale of almost legendary magnitude, leaflets, alleged by those who act with him to be no less numerous than 50,000,000, and to distribute them broadcast over the whole country, as a contribution, I suppose, to the inquiry. I really think hon. Members of this House are very closely concerned with the assumption by a Minister of the right at once to use the prestige of a Minister of the Crown and the liberty of a private Member of Parliament. I do not believe there is any precedent in the whole of our constitutional history for such a proceeding, and it creates an aspect of the matter about which we are entitled to comment this afternoon, and which evidently affects the confidence we are able to feel in that Minister. The position in which we are placed——

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand it would be in order for any Member of the House to discuss the salary of the Colonial Secretary?

*Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): Oh; muzzle the House of Commons.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The question I am putting is whether it is in order for the House to discuss the salary of a Secretary of State on the ground of the distribution of pamphlets by an association of which that Secretary of State happens to be the president.

LORD HUGH CECIL: And which his colleagues say are issued with his general approval.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what the facts are. They seem to be in dispute; but what I have said is that it is not competent to discuss a policy which is, I presume, set forth in those leaflets.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: May I further ask whether it is competent for the House to discuss this alleged action, not undertaken by the Colonial Secretary as an administrative act, on his salary?

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not think, so far, the noble Lord is out of order.

LORD HUGH CECIL: My right hon. friend's repugnance to discussion carries him now almost to the point of extravagance. The mere approach to any criticism of the policy of his colleague, the mere suggestion that a finger-tip should be laid upon so fragile a subject, leads my right hon. friend to seek by every means in his power to restrict and limit within the closest dimensions the deliberative powers of the House. His is the policy of silence; let his also be the discredit of it. It is not we who are afraid of discussing this matter to the bottom. I will not enter in any length upon the issue of these leaflets, but I think that this debate ought not to close without a protest against the extraordinary use which the Secretary of State for the Colonies has made of his official position. The right hon. Gentleman is combining together all the resources which are not his own, and which are given to him by the House and by many hon. Members who strongly disapprove of the policy he is pursuing—combining the prestige of a Minister of the Crown with the liberty stretched to its utmost limits which an ordinary politician may exercise in the discussion of political matters. It is a constitutional scandal scarcely less than the attitude which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister takes up in respect of all proposals to discuss the policy which has been thrust upon the country.

MR. ASQUITH: This discussion is so unreal in many of its aspects that I do not think it need be prolonged, but I rise merely to take note of one or two observations of the Prime Minister. I am glad to hear that this information, which the right hon. Gentleman has promised to us on the highest authority, and in the most explicit terms, before Parliament was prorogued, is to see the light within the next four weeks. Let us all take note of that. In the second place, I am glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman's assurance that the information, when it is furnished on the authority of the Departments, will be information confined to facts and not conjectures or hypotheses or theoretical inferences.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What I said was that we desired to have as little conjecture or hypothesis lying at the root of these matters as possible. We cannot avoid conjecture altogether.

MR. ASQUITH: I must confess that this inquiry now assumes gigantic and interminable proportions, because we are told that, if the information given is not satisfactory, it will be open to anyone to ask for further information and develop further sources of supply, to increase the quantity of facts and inferences given to the public. It appears to me that the position of the Government in this matter is going very much to resemble that of persons puffing a great work of reference. The more questions you ask the more gratified they will be, the more copies they will be prepared to supply, and the larger the body of information they will be enabled to supply to the country. But there is a question to which we should like to have some definite answer. When is the inquiry to be concluded? I am not asking for a date, but for a logical term to this process of what appears to be an interminable investigation, because it is of the utmost importance, having regard to the vast issues raised, that we should have some indication as to when the information which the Government has vouchsafed will be completed, and when the country will be asked to come to a final decision with reference to this matter I am afraid we cannot carry the question any further to-day, and that we must be grateful for the promise we have received.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I am sorry that the Colonial Secretary himself is not here to take part in the discussion. Why does he keep hiding himself behind what are called "Rules of Order?"

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Why should he be here?

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): Inasmuch as the discussion on the fiscal question appears to be over, I want to direct attention to some Irish interests. Within the last few days a petition was presented to the Irish Government to establish Registration Revision Courts at Dalkey and Killiney, in the County of Dublin, and although that request had been supported by the two local councils elected by the people, the answer of the Government has been in the negative. I think, for my own part, that had a similar request been made by any local body in England there would have been no hesitation whatever in granting it. This refusal casts a flood of light upon the manner and spirit in which the government of Ireland is carried on. The fact is that this same Dublin constitutency is one of two or three in Ireland in which there is a balance of Parties on the electoral lists, and if either side is able to buy the Government of the day, it is possible, by manipulation of one kind or another, to secure the victory in the Revision Court, and therefore at the polls. In South Dublin the Unionist party is in the majority, but they refused to re-elect a member of the present Government, Mr. Horace Plunkett, so extreme are these gentlemen in their views. That party have made up their mind to capture that constitutency *per fas et nefas*, and the Government, instead of standing impartially between the contending parties, have deliberately taken sides with one of them. I say that deliberately, and that that party is the Orange party. As I have said, two of the local councils have petitioned for a Revision Court; and why should not facilities be given to the people to record their votes? Is there any treason in making a request of that kind? Would there be anything against the Constitution in granting it without a moment's hesitation? I defy the Attorney-General or the Solicitor-General to mention a single instance in which the request of the elected councils would not be granted without more ado! These councils are of great account when loyal addresses are to be presented to the King when he comes over to Ireland, or to the Lord Lieutenant when he comes into the district. When they resolve to present these addresses they are lauded to the skies and told that they are great and important bodies; but when they ask for the establishment of a Revision Court for the registration of voters in their own district, they are kicked downstairs by Dublin Castle as if they were rebels. Possibly, if they had been more rebellious than they are, a different answer would have been returned to them. As I have stated, the Government are in league with the officials of the Unionist Registration Association of South Dublin. I state that deliberately; and I say that it is within the knowledge, at any rate, of one of the two Law Officers of the Crown; and I further say that it is because they are in league with them that they are bound to refuse a Registration Revision Court at Dalkey, unless leave is given to them from the headquarters in Dublin. Is not that a scandal? Is that the way in which the battle of the Union is going to be fought in Ireland? We are told that we have a Constitution and that we should play the game according to the rules of the Constitution; but when we play the game according to the Constitution we find the other party playing with loaded dice, and that they are indulging in practices in which they would not dare to indulge in England. I do not expect that my remarks will have much effect on the Orange party in the Government, but I make them for the purpose of bringing into view the manner and spirit in which Ireland is governed. No matter what is said here; no matter what reception is given to the King and Queen in Ireland; Ireland is governed in the same way it has been ruled for the last 100 years.

There is another topic which was discussed, unfortunately in my absence, last night, because I represent the county which is concerned most in it. The Government have taken lately to refuse to pay a sum of about £700 in respect of rates for Phœnix Park, Dublin. That is justified on the ground that, in England, a similar park had been treated in the same way. I am not sure that the statement is correct that any park in England has been treated in the same way as Phœnix Park. I know the case of Brockwell Park, for I have taken care to read up the law reports upon it. I do not pretend to be a legal authority, but, still, I maintain that there is the widest possible distinction between the two cases. I invite the attention of the Attorney-General to this matter. I do not think that, as an Irishman, he can complacently look on the abstraction of £700 a year from the County of Dublin, and the ratepayers of the city of Dublin. I have been honoured on two or three occasions by my colleagues by being asked to introduce into this House the question of the financial relations between Ireland and Great Britain, but have declined. However, I have been thinking over the matter since and have come to the conclusion that the hon. Member for the County of Dublin is the proper person, because that county has been the subject of special ill-treatment in financial matters at the hands of the Government of the day. What did the Government actually do? They revalued the county of Dublin in anticipation of a certain valuation Bill which was to be introduced into Parliament; and they compelled the ratepayers of the County of Dublin to pay the costs! The operation was entirely illegal; and although it was so, the money which was extracted from the ratepayers of the county of Dublin has never been refunded to them. The pretence of the Secretary to the Treasury last night, as it has been the pretence of some of his predecessors, was that the Phœnix Park would not pay rates in England; and that, therefore, it ought to be regarded as a sort of property in respect to which the Government should make a grant in lieu of rates. The Brockwell Park case was that that park was entirely and exclusively devoted to public purposes; whereas in the case of the Phœnix Park, what has been done year after year? Encroachments have been made on the domain of the park; public buildings have been erected on it for the public service; and the Government has made an income out of it from grazing rents. Would any man pretend that a park like that should not be liable to rates? Of course it would be liable to rates in England; and I contend that the County Council of Dublin ought to receive a bounty in lieu of rates given in every other case. It is a shabby and mean attempt to make ends meet by indulging in small economies, when the Government have been spending millions on war abroad and thousands on objects in Ireland itself which will never bring them in an adequate return. Seven hundred pounds is a very considerable sum to throw on the rates of the county of Dublin; but it is a very little sum indeed so far as the Government are concerned. The Government are grasping at a shadow in order to indulge in this meanness, although Ministers know very well that the English case is different from the Irish case. I do not suppose that my remarks will have any weight; but I would not be doing my duty to my constituents if I did not join in the protest which was made last night, and if I did not inform the Secretary to the Treasury that he has by no means heard the last of this matter, and that it will be introduced session after session until the injustice is remedied.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said that on the previous evening he had brought certain matters to the notice of the Prime Minister, notably, the important question of trawling, the administration of Egypt, and certain affairs connected with China. He did not expect that the right hon. Gentleman would be in a position to give him information with reference to the administration of Egypt or on affairs connected with China. But as the Lord Advocate was now present he wished to direct his attention to the question of trawling in the Moray Firth. Some few years ago a conference was held at Christiana at which this country was represented, and a resolution was carried to the effect that certain areas such as the Moray Firth should be closed against all trawlers. He had endeavoured to ascertain by means of Questions whether any action had been taken on that resolution; but he was unable to get any information. He would now ask the Lord Advocate whether anything had been done with reference to it. The matter was getting worse from day to day. The Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland showed that in 1886 the number of steam trawlers was 109, whereas in 1892 they numbered 275. Meantime, there was no increase in the number of protecting cruisers. There was a great want of cruisers around the coast of Scotland; and he could not understand when such a number of ships were lying idle at Portsmouth, Chatham and elsewhere, why they should not be commissioned to protect the fishing industry off the coast of Scotland, It seemed to him that torpedo boats and cruisers now lying idle might well be utilised when the fishing industry was being devastated and ruined, and when a fine race of men were, in consequence, obliged to have recourse to the large towns. It should be the duty of any Government to protect such men, as far as possible, on such an industry, as, in the event of a naval war, they would be found invaluable. He hoped the Lord Advocate would be able to give him some information on the subject, and that he would place the matter before Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the Secretary for Scotland, with a view to his approaching the Admiralty in order that a sufficient number of protecting cruisers might be secured. The Colonial Office and the War Office seemed to be able to get all they required, but the Scottish Office was not so successful.

With reference to Port Ness harbour, he had been told that the matter was still under consideration; but unless the work were undertaken within the next month or two it would have to stand over for another year, because it could not be carried on during the winter months in such an exposed part of the country. With regard to the Congested Districts Board, it had now been established for five years, and half its income had been hoarded up. He thought that the House of Commons should be told what was to be done with it. He wanted to see land secured for the people. Land had been purchased on lease by the Congested Districts Board; but he contended that such land should be freehold, as otherwise, in course of time, the people would be no better off than they were at present. He thought it was time that the present policy of the Congested Districts Board was stopped, and that the income of the Board should be expended for purposes which were contemplated by Parliament. Not a single shilling had been expended in the purchase of land in his own county. In the Island of Lewis, where there was more distress, suffering, and misery than in any other part of His Majesty's Dominions, very little action had been taken by the Congested Districts Board. He would invite the Lord Advocate to visit the Island of Lewis and see the state of affairs with his own eyes. If the Lord Advocate did that he would then know what he was talking about, and, if he had any heart at all, he would set to work to remedy the evils which existed. The Congested Districts Board was working most unsatisfactorily, and he would urge on the right hon. Gentleman the necessity of making the conditions of life of the crofters more satisfactory than they were at present.

With reference to the Local Government Board for Scotland, they did very well in the Lowlands, but, in regard to the Highlands, they did their work very badly indeed. Whenever an outbreak of fever occurred they never sent a medical officer of their own to inquire into it, but left local medical men to report on it. When an outbreak occurred in the Island of Lewis he was informed that it was typhoid fever; but afterwards he was informed on high medical authority that it was typhus fever. That was the kind of information that was supplied to Parliament. The local school had to be closed for six months, and what chance had a Highland boy or girl of getting on in the world unless they were well educated? The Government should do their very best to educate to the highest possible degree boys and girls in the Highlands, through technical schools, workshops, and by other means. They should not be sent out into the world to always remain hewers of wood and drawers of water. Further, he thought the medical officers in Scotland should be treated as regarded holidays in the same way as medical officers in Ireland were treated. In Scotland a medical officer could only have a holiday if he provided a substitute out of his own small salary. In Ireland the *locum tenens* was provided by the Local Government Board. He thought a similar system should be introduced in Scotland, and that medical officers should be given an opportunity to visit hospitals and learn something further of their profession, because it was a profession in which something fresh was always to be learned.

He could not for the life of him understand why there was no vaccine station provided for Scotland. The Royal Commission which considered the question strongly recommended that vaccination from arm to arm should cease; but the Scottish Office apparently overruled that. There was no conscience clause in Scotland, and if the Government compelled people to be vaccinated it was their duty to supply proper lymph. At present a system of arm to arm vaccination went on, a little lymph being supplied here and there. Last year the Local Government Board for Scotland paid the Local Government Board for England £120 for lymph, although the Local Government Board for England said they never received it. He did not know whether they did or not, but certainly that was a very unsatisfactory way of conducting business. Then, Dr. Blaxall, who was a paid officer of the Local Government Board in London, and who had the use of Government calves and Government apparatus in the preparation of lymph, was paid £105 by the Local Government Board for Scotland for lymph. Surely a Government official should not be allowed to use Government property to earn money for his own benefit.

There was one question connected with the Colonial Office to which he desired to refer, and it was a matter of great importance to the people of Hong-Kong. In Chinese houses there were sometimes as many as 200 inmates, and when plague broke out the authorities instead of segregating the victims told them to remain at home. Seeing that there were so many people in the houses it was no wonder the plague spread. Medical experts, who had been sent out, had made certain recommendations, all of which were ignored by the Hong-Kong Government. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give his attention to this matter. His last point was with regard to Ceylon. On the tea plantations there were 100,000 Tamil children, of whom only 1,000 could read or write. The school accommodation was most inadequate, and as the British Government were responsible for these people, he thought that necessary accommodation ought to be provided.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am afraid I cannot satisfy the hon. Member's appetite for information by going through the whole scope of his observations——

MR. WEIR: I expect the Lord Advocate to reply only about Scotland.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I will reply so far as my Department is concerned. The hon. Member asked me, first of all, whether I could tell him anything about the progress of the negotiations concerning the North Sea fisheries. The hon. Member has asked many Questions on that subject, and the answers he has received show that the question of the policing or shutting up of areas such as the Moray Firth was mooted at the conference. But it is perfectly obvious that no action in the direction suggested could possibly be taken by the foreign Powers until they had arrived at some conclusion upon the question primarily submitted to the conference, viz., of the depletion or otherwise of fish in the North Sea. The hon. Member must surely see that what his, or our views, may be as to the desirability of keeping areas like the Moray Firth as a ground wherein the line fishermen may exercise their vocation undisturbed by foreigners, that course is not at all likely to commend itself to foreign Powers who by international law have as much right in the Moray Firth as we have, unless we can show that it is in the interests of the foreign Powers themselves that such an arrangement should be made. That depends not upon the view of line fishermen versus trawlers, but upon the much larger question of the food supply of the North Sea. The hon. Member must be aware that there is unfortunately no consensus of opinion as to the actual state of affairs in the North Sea. Undoubtedly until you have an answer from the scientific experts of whom the conference is composed it is useless to expect any effective action on the part of foreign Powers, and without such action it is obvious that, whatever your views may be, you cannot close an area which is at present open under international law. As to patrolling, the Scotch office, so far from being supine in the matter, have always pressed admirably for the maximum of service obtainable, and Irishmen at any rate hold the view that Scotland is much better treated in this matter than Ireland has ever been. With regard to Ness, that is a matter of great difficulty, in connection with which I am afraid the hon. Member must exercise the virtue of patience a little longer.

The last point with which I am concerned is the Congested Districts Board. First, let me say that the hon. Member puts his own gloss entirely on the Act when he says it was passed mainly for the migration of crofters. The Act is for the purpose of administering sums available for the improvement of the congested districts, and when you come to the various powers which are to be exercised for improvement of the congested districts, the migration of crofters is only one among many, and it is not even first on the list. The hon. Member's remarks therefore are altogether beside the mark when he tries to force upon the Secretary for Scotland the policy of spending the whole of the money at his disposal on the migration of crofters and nothing else. The Secretary for Scotland has explained his policy; it is well set forth in the Reports of the Congested Districts Board, and he is not to be forced from it. He believes, and the Government agree, that it would be no boon at all to the Highlands to migrate persons who are not in a proper position to be migrated; that is to say, who have no chance, by what they are possessed of themselves, of using with advantage any holding they might get. On the other hand, there are many ways in which the money might be spent. I will do the hon. Member the compliment of saying that so far as he is concerned we should have got the Congested Districts Board (Scotland) Bill, No. 2. That Bill would have given power to the Board to spend money in the very way the Report of the Commission says it ought to be spent, but through the action of the hon. Member for Mid Lanark, the Bill was sacrificed.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said that if the Lord Advocate was going into the question of the sacrifice of the Bill he was quite prepared to justify his opposition to it.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I thought it only right to pay the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty that tribute. I say quite plainly that progress upon those lines is the object of the policy of the Secretary for Scotland, that we do not admit that the migration of crofters is the only or even the main object of the establishment of the Board, and that it is far better to accumulate the money until there is an opportunity of spending it properly.

MR. MOONEY (Dublin Co., S.) desired to associate himself with the action taken by the hon. Member for North Dublin. In his opinion the Irish Office had been guilty of a gross breach of faith, because, when on a former occasion he addressed an inquiry on the matter to the Chief Secretary, he was told that no recommendation had been made to the Lord Lieutenant, and that if such a recommendation were made, the matter would be inquired into, and, if found necessary, it would be granted. The representatives of the two districts concerned passed unanimous resolutions in favour of this Court, and they were sent to the proper authorities, but nothing further was heard about the matter for some time. Afterwards, in reply to a question, the Attorney-General said there was no reason for granting this Court at all, and a letter was sent in which it was stated that the Lord Lieutenant had made inquiries, and that there was no reason whatever for granting the Court which was asked for. He wished to know upon whose advice the Lord Lieutenant came to that conclusion, more especially when the people in the districts concerned had declared that sufficient facilities were not provided to enable them to conveniently exercise the franchise. The local authorities were informed in the first instance that they would get this Court if they applied for it, and they did so by a unanimous vote of their elected representatives. They were afterwards told that inquiry had been made, and that there was no reason for granting this Court. He believed that the only inquiry which was made was from a representative of the political

Party opposite, and in this way the views of the people were overruled. No explanation would convince him that the Government in this matter had not been influenced by political motives.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said he quite agreed with the hon. Member that no explanation he could give would remove from his mind the opinion that the Government had been actuated by base motives in this matter. He denied that there had been any breach of faith in regard to this Court at Dalkey.

MR. MOONEY said the reason why a Court was asked for in Dalkey was to secure for the Dalkey and Killiney districts proper facilities for voting.

MR. ATKINSON said that both Dalkey and Killiney were within easy reach of Dublin both by railway and by tramways.

MR. CLANCY asked from whom the inquiries were made.

MR. ATKINSON said there was not the slightest foundation for saying that inquiries were actuated by political motives.

MR. CLANCY: Will the right hon. Gentleman say who were consulted upon this matter?

MR. ATKINSON said he did not know.

MR. MOONEY said if the right hon Gentleman did not know by whom the inquiry was conducted how could he deny his statement.

MR. ATKINSON said that the permanent revising barrister was asked his opinion, and his reply was that the change suggested was entirely unnecessary, and that no complaint had ever been made by the local people in regard to getting their votes registered. No complaint had been made to him that there was no separate Revision Court for Dalkey. The Lord Lieutenant did not know whether a Revision Court at Dalkey would be beneficial to either Nationalists or to the opposite Party. An arrangement was made last year which was found to suit all parties. Hitherto the custom had been to have certain days for the revision of the Dalkey lists, and certain days for Kingstown. Arrangements were made for the Dalkey lists to be kept open so that a voter from Dalkey could come in either during the afternoon or evening and have his vote registered. The Dalkey list was kept open till the last so that during the whole time no voter had any difficulty whatever in getting his vote registered. Special arrangements were made to suit the convenience of all parts of that district, and the Government had no interest whatever in the matter. When complaint was made they referred the matter to the revising barrister, who was the person best acquainted with the facts, who was disinterested, and who had no partisan purposes to serve. The Government acted upon his advice, and not from any unworthy motives such as hon. Members opposite were so ready to impute to the Government.

MR. CLANCY: Does the right hon. Gentleman say that the revising barrister is a better authority upon this question than the elected representatives of Dalkey?

MR. ATKINSON said he thought the revising barrister's opinion was quite as good as the opinion of either of those two bodies.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said the reply of the Attorney-General was singularly unconvincing, because it was quite evident that the right hon. Gentleman was not willing to give the full facts to the House. It was inconceivable that the chief Law Officer of the Crown for Ireland should not know the facts of this case. It was a well-known fact that the permanent revising barrister was regarded as prejudiced upon these matters. He had risen for the purpose of calling attention to the action of Major Eccles, who had recently been appointed auditor to the Local Government Board. He wished to call particular attention to the case of an unfortunate collector who had been surcharged by this auditor. The salary of this collector was only about £14 a year. It seemed to him to be as difficult to alter the rules of the Government auditor as it was to alter the laws of the Medes and Persians. Major Eccles went down to the Belturbet district and found that for a long period of years a number of houses had been lying idle in respect of which at some time rates were collected. They still stood on the books of the district, and in respect of the collector's failure to do an impossible thing, namely, to collect rates on these houses, the collector was surcharged £216 14s. 0d. When he went into the presence of Major Eccles it would seem that he was not deferential enough. The auditor instead of receiving him with courtesy and civility, ordered him forthwith to retire from his august presence, and not to come again until he was accompanied by a solicitor. When he returned with a solicitor he was informed that in consequence of the default to collect rates on these houses he had decided to surcharge him in the amount stated. This collector had been thirty years in the service of the district and there was no charge of dishonesty against him. He appealed against the auditor's decision to the Local Goverment Board, and they after some inquiry confirmed the decision of the auditor. He was then served with a notice to appear before two magistrates of the Petty Sessions of the district, who decided that he must either pay the amount of the surcharge or go to gaol. If this man had fraudently got the money and converted it to his own use, he could understand this procedure, but this was a case of a faithful servant who, because a mere technicality of the law was not complied with, was treated in this way by a comparatively new officer, on the principle, he supposed, that "a new broom sweeps clean." He himself had appealed to the Government to take some steps in the interest of justice in this case, and he had received the usual stereotyped official reply, that the matter was decided and must remain so. In other words this unfortunate man, or his friends, must get the money which he was not legally or morally responsible for, otherwise his liberty was in peril and he might at any moment be committed to prison. This was a monstrously unjust state of things, and it was illegal. Some of the man's friends had thought of taking proceedings in the King's Bench to get the decision quashed, but so far nothing had been done in that direction, as they could not face the costs which the appeal would involve. He asked the Attorney General to give some explanation of the matter other than that given in the official reply the other day. Major Eccles in this case from the beginning had not treated the man fairly. If the right hon. Gentleman discharged the duties of his office, he would see that there was another inquiry into the matter, by an independent auditor if necessary. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to direct the Local Government Board to reconsider this matter.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): said he thought it would be satisfactory if he made a short reply at this stage to the hon. Member for North Dublin, though he had little to add to what he had already said on previous occasions within the last week. What happened in regard to the Phœnix Park was this. Formerly the Crown paid the rates in respect of the Phœnix Park. The principle on which the Crown acted was, that though they were not legally bound to pay rates at all, they did out of grace and favour contribute voluntarily to the rates, on property which was subject to lawful rating when in other hands. Where the Crown was the owner and occupier of property which in other hands would not be rated, the Crown did not consider it expedient and wise to come forward and pay rates in respect of that property. The Phœnix Park, Dublin, stood formerly in the same position as Hyde Park, St. James's Park and other London Parks. In regard to these parks it was the custom, previously, for the Crown to pay rates in aid of the local ratepayers, but the House of Lords had given a decision in regard to a particular park in South London, known as Brockwell Park, which had been dedicated to the public by statute for recreation for ever, the Trustees being the London County Council. The House of Lords decided that that park was not rateable, and that the County Council owed no rates whatever in respect of it. In consequence of that it became the duty of the Treasury to consider whether, under those circumstances, they ought to go on paying rates on other London parks, and they came to the conclusion that they must be guided by the principle that, inasmuch as the House of Lords had decided that Brockwell Park was not rateable, the Crown ought not to pay rates in respect of Hyde Park, St. James's Park, or the Phœnix Park.

That was the whole case, as the hon. member would see if he read the judgment in the case of Brockwell Park. In Hyde Park, as in the Phœnix Park, some revenue was made from the grazing of sheep. Therefore, the case for the Treasury was that the decision of the House of Lords bound them, and if they were not to depart from the old principle, namely, that they must consider whether the character of the property was such that it would be rateable in other hands, then the Crown must proceed in the way they had proceeded. With regard to the decision of the House of Lords, it was not for them to reason why. The Hon. Member might think, and possibly others might agree with him, that property of that kind should be liable to pay rates. That was not the question before the House at present. The Treasury had to follow the law as laid down by the House of Lords, and the general principle on which for many years the Crown had acted.

MR. CLANCY said the hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well that the circumstances of those parks differed. They were not the same in any case. What he and his friends contended was that the circumstances of the Phœnix Park were not at all identical with those of Brockwell Park. He asked whether the hon. gentleman would give a pledge, now, that he would facilitate the discussion and determination of this question in a Court of law in Ireland.

MR. ELLIOT said that as far as he was concerned he did not see how the question could be raised as against the Crown, because it was quite clear, as a matter of constitutional law, that the Crown was not rateable at all in respect of any of those properties.

MR. CLANCY: Supposing it can be raised, will the hon. Gentleman consent to have it discussed?

MR. ELLIOT said he should hardly like to say what he would do in circumstances which he thought could not arise. But if the hon. Member could suggest any method by which the question could be raised, he did not see any objection to having it tested.

*MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire): I wish to make a few remarks on the Report of the Select Committee on the ventilation and sanitation of the House of Commons, as there was positively no other occasion on which this subject could be discussed this session. When I mention the delay that has taken place in bringing forward the Report of that Committee, the necessity of my submitting this matter to the attention of the House at this late period of the session becomes more apparent. On the 14th March, 1902, I moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the matter, and in the meantime to carry out sanitary improvements the necessity for which was quite apparent, and the First Commissioner of Works very kindly consented that a Committee should be appointed immediately after Easter. He was as good as his word, and on the 16th April the Committee was appointed. I was sanguine enough to imagine that the Report would be presented before the end of last session, and by Questions in the House, by private interviews, and by again speaking on the subject last August, I endeavoured to accelerate matters. When the House reassembled on 24th February this year, I put a Question to the hon Member for North Hunts, as representing the First Commissioner of the Board of Works, asking when the Report of the Select Committee on the ventilation of the House of Commons buildings would be issued, and the answer was that—

> "The Select Committee had found it impossible to conclude their inquiry last session, and that it was proposed to ask the House to re-appoint the Committee at an early date. During the recess the authorised improvements in the ventilation of the Commons' Committee Rooms had been completed, and new fittings have been supplied to the sanitary offices on the ground floor terrace front, and mechanical ventilation has been introduced into them with excellent effects. Other sanitary offices in the building will be dealt with in the same way as opportunities arise."

This refers to a state of things which was not at all creditable to the sanitary condition of the House of Commons. But the Committee was not re-appointed till 17th June. I now wish to urge that the recommendations of that Committee, issued on 28th July, 1903, which are very admirable so far as they go, should be carried out before the House meets next year. I think we are very much indebted to the members of that

Committee, some of whom are men of great scientific attainments, for the time and attention which they have devoted to this prosaic subject. Their recommendations confirm what I had formerly stated both as to the insanitary conditions of the House of Commons, and as to the best means that can be adopted for their removal. Their Report is very moderate in its language. As to the condition of the House itself, they state that

> "When the House is ordinarily full the supply of air exceeds the quantity generally estimated to be desirable, viz., 50 cubic feet per minute per head; but there is reason to think that the present arrangements do not provide an adequate margin for a very crowded House . . . that the air of the Chamber 'lacks freshness,' that there are some qualities possessed by it which lead to a stay for a length of time in the Chamber, causing in the Members a lassitude and feeling of heaviness which tends to interfere with a due performance of their duties, and that as 'the main entrance of air is mainly through the grating of the floor of the House and on the gangways,' it must become 'laden with the dust and various impurities continually being brought in by the Members' feet, as they walk over the floor and along the gangways,' 'and that the supply of air to the galleries, especially the Strangers', Ladies' and Reporters' galleries, is undoubtedly susceptible of improvement.'"

Then the Committee said that the evidence placed before them also showed that—

> "The condition of the Committee rooms, corrridors, and some other parts of the House was far less satisfactory than that of the chamber itself. Since the Committee began its labours, however,"

the Report went on—

> "considerable improvement has been effected by the introduction of fans into the Committee rooms, and the worst of the evils previously complained of have been remedied; considerable improvements also have been introduced into the lavatories."

That I consider very euphemistic.

As to the recommendations of the Committee they are very cautious and very moderate, and I would say very economical; but so far as they go they should be complied with immediately. I will only refer to two or three of the most important. One of them refers to the placing of the whole ventilation and cleaning arrangements under one authority; and the appointment of a sanitary officer under the Office of Works to direct and superintend the ventilation of the House. The divided authority has been the source of very much inefficiency. I believe that three-fourths of the insanitary arrangements result from an absolute disregard of the most ordinary and well-understood principles of sanitation; and the sooner that a Hercules in sanitary work is appointed and set to work to cleanse the Augian Stable where many more than a thousand are sometimes congregated together within a small space, and to keep it clean and pure, the better will it be for all concerned. Then I am glad of the suggested substitution of electric fans for the present ante-deluvian system of exhaust furnaces, and of a more powerful new improved intake fan for the present one. They recommend also the institution of an inquiry into the problems of ventilation still unsolved, with the view to introducing further improvements. This is a very necessary part of the inquiry, and the sooner it is undertaken the better, and no time should be lost in carrying out the present recommendations, for they are admirable so far as they go. But I have been disappointed that the Committee have not made any recommendation on some points which I think very much needing improvement. I think it is a pity that they have made no recommendation for a change in the heating apparatus from steam pipes and radiating plates, which are a most unwholesome means of warming the air. I am sorry that they have not recommended that the system should be discontinued at once. I regret that they have not seen their way to give a better supply of air to the Strangers', the Reporters', and to the Ladies' Galleries. The Reporters, next to ourselves, should be in a position to have their intellectual faculties unimpaired by bad air. But apart from the Reporters' Gallery in the House, anyone who has had an opportunity of going into their other accommodation premises must have been struck with the fact that their conditions are, from a sanitary point of view, most deplorable. I believe that when a sanitary inspector for the House is appointed, the first report he makes will be that the sanitation of some of the Reporting rooms and their accessories is not at all creditable to the House. Under present conditions I am certain that if this House were under the Factory Acts, the sanitary regulations of which have recently been made much more stringent, my hon. friend the Member for

West Derby, as the representative of the Board of Works, would be immediately summoned and fined.

In this connection let me mention that a very large number of Civil servants, both in London and the provinces, are compelled to work in the most insanitary surroundings and conditions; and I would suggest to the Board of Works that when appointing a sanitary officer for the House they would also appoint one for the various Government offices throughout the country. The Government as an employer of labour should set an example to other employers. The vitiated atmosphere in which we spend so much of our time, especially under the unnatural conditions imposed by the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule, has been the cause of much of the dulness, depression, and even acerbity of temper which sometimes, though rarely, overshadows this generally cheerful and good-natured Assembly. It has caused a large amount of sickness and suffering to many hon. Members who would have been hale and well under ordinary sanitary conditions, and it has caused the loss of many noble lives which the Country and this House could ill afford to spare—the latest addition to this fatal roll being one of the most amiable and popular of our Scotch colleagues, whose devotion to duty caused him to give far too close and prolonged attendance here. On all these grounds I urge on the Board of Works, through its representative the Member for West Derby, to carry out all the recommendations of the Select Committee before the House meets again, so that we shall then find the House and its precincts in a very much better sanitary condition.

Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he had not the same amount of belief in the vitiated atmosphere of the Chamber itself as some hon. Members. He believed that the air in the Chamber was as good as the air in any other closed chamber in the United Kingdom. On one occasion, he was almost continually in the House for nearly forty days and nights but was never affected by the atmosphere. The hon. Gentleman the Member for the London University, who presided over the Committee, had the atmosphere tested; and the result showed that it was better than atmosphere elsewhere under similar conditions. Although he did not agree entirely with the speech of the hon. Gentleman, he thought that his suggestion with reference to the appointment of a permanent sanitary officer should be carried out. The ventilation outside the Chamber was exceeding defective, and that was due, until recently, to windows not being opened. There was, however, an improvement in that respect; but he thought that the hon. Gentleman was perfectly right in stating that one of the most important recommendations in the Report of the Committee was that a permanent sanitary officer should be appointed to take charge of the entire building, which had a considerable resident population and a very large visiting population, and which would offer an opportunity for a considerable amount of work to a skilled sanitarian. In many respects the arrangements were defective; but they were being improved detail by detail, session after session. They did not, however, represent that standard of excellence which ought to belong to the building occupied by the Mother of Parliaments. He quite agreed with the remarks of the hon. Gentleman with reference to the Reporters' Gallery and the Ladies' Gallery. The atmosphere in the Ladies' Gallery was excessively oppressive; and the ventilation in that part of the building was exceedingly defective. Some of the worst parts of the building were those connected with the accommodation given to the Reporters. Several of the rooms in which the Reporters had to work were not only dirty and undesirable but exceedingly bad from a sanitary point of view, and should receive the attention, at the earliest possible moment, of the responsible officials. In his opinion, various matters could be greatly improved. For instance, the present method of heating might very well be improved, but, at the same time, he felt bound to enter a protest against anything approaching a wholesale condemnation of the atmosphere of the Chamber. That certainly should not be held responsible for the gaps which occurred in their ranks from time to time, as, for instance, the hon. Gentleman the Member for Argyll, to whom the hon. Gentleman referred, whose death they all deplored and who was one of the most estimable Members of the House of Commons. The mortality among hon. Members, however, should not be put down to the condition of the Chamber itself.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said he wished to refer to the electric fans in the lobbies. Members had no means of stopping them, although they might find the draught too great for their comfort. An electric fan had now been placed over each table, but there was no means by which it could be stopped if desired. He hoped his hon. friend would call the attention of the First Commissioner of Works to the matter. There was another matter to which he wished to refer, which was connected with the comfort of the visitors. He knew from his own experience that in foreign Legislatures facilities were provided for depositing coats and hats before entering the strangers' galleries. A stranger entering the gallery in this House might have to pass with his coat and hat twenty or thirty other visitors to the general discomfort of all. It would be perfectly easy to provide accommodation for hats and coats under the charge of an attendant, and, if necessary, a small fee might be charged. Lord Windsor was very anxious to do everything in his power to promote the comfort of all sections of the House; and he was quite sure he would give attention to the matters he had mentioned.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.): Unfortunately there has been a delay in the presentation of the Committee's Report on ventilation, with the result that it was impossible to carry out the work before Parliament met. I had only the privilege of sitting on the Committee on two occasions; but, of course, I am prepared to take my full share of responsibility for the Report, though I believe everyone will fully recognise that the credit of the Report is due entirely to my hon. friend the Member for the London University, who devoted an immense amount of labour and trouble to the work of the Committee. With reference to the remarks of my hon. friend the Member for Dumbartonshire, as a matter of fact it was a surprise to many hon. Members when they found by experience and experiment that the atmosphere of the Chamber was so very satisfactory. Nevertheless, I do not wish to make things better than they are. Speaking for the Board of Works, I can only say we are only too glad that we have had the advantage of a strong Committee, which enabled us to have the service of their recommendations. The First Commissioner of Works has already approached the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, I understand, will allow us to bring in a Supplementary Estimate next year, which will enable us to deal more effectually with the first recommendations of the Committee, and I hope if those recommendations do not make the ventilation perfect they will go a long way towards it. It is a very difficult thing to ventilate this Chamber. I have heard that it is almost heartbreaking, and without considerable alteration, which would result in considerable disfigurement and comparatively little use, it would be almost impossible to ventilate it. So far as the appointment of a sanitary officer is concerned we have not had time to give that matter consideration. The Report was only issued on the 24th July, and a subject of that sort requires considerable consideration, as is well known to those who take an interest in the matter. Our engineer, Mr. Rivers, is extremely well-qualified to carry out this business. He has not only a perfect knowledge of the House itself, but also of the Members, and he knows how difficult it is to please everybody. One case in point is the ventilation of the division lobbies. Hon. Members always thought, and the First Commissioner always thought he had taken steps to considerably improve the ventilation of the division lobbies. It is now wished that some further alterations should be made. My hon. friend wishes hon. Members to have the power to regulate the fans. That would prove a most unsatisfactory system, and, with the attendance we have, any hon. Gentleman is able very rapidly to call attention to a matter of which he complains. So far as the other cases are concerned, I will see into the matter, and bring the facts to the attention of the First Commissioner, especially with regard to the more frequent cleaning of the floor. We are bringing in a machine called the vacuum cleaner, which will, no doubt, have the best possible effect.

MR. DELANY (Queens County, Ossory) called attention to the case of Miss Blanc, the late assistant to the post office at Portarlington, who, after twenty-eight and a half years true and faithful service, during the earlier portion of which she worked sixteen hours a day, was discharged on the 30th of April last without either pension or gratuity. He contended that, being discharged by the surveyor, she was a servant of the Postmaster-General, and as such was entitled either to a gratuity of £1 or one week's salary, whichever was the greater amount, for every year's service. Such a gratuity in her case would amount to £28 10s. That was all he claimed for her. If the law was so framed that it was possible for such an injustice to be done to persons who had rendered long and faithful service, it ought to be changed without delay.

*MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs) said that for some time past he had been pressing for the establishment of sea post offices on the Cunard Line of steamers, and he congratulated the Postmaster-General on the fact that, under the fresh contract, new steamers were to have such offices provided. He desired to ask if anything had been done in regard to the steamers at present running across the Atlantic. The Postmaster-General at New York had urged that the British Postmaster-General should take up the matter energetically. On other lines of steamers on which sea post offices were provided he found that the space required was only small and the amount paid inconsiderable. It was of urgent importance that letters by the Cunard Line should be delivered as quickly as letters by the Hamburg-American, North-German Lloyd or the American Lines, but under present arrangements they were some hours later. He thought that if pressure had been brought to bear before the new contract was signed, the Cunard Line could not have refused to establish these sea post offices. There was no reason why they should not have been insisted upon, and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would push the matter forward, as it was of great importance to business men and others.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) said he had already informed the hon. Member that he had this matter under consideration and that communications were passing between himself and the other parties concerned. He was not able to give any more definite information. At the same time, there was in the new Cunard contract a provision that, if at any time post office accommodation should be required, the company would, in terms to be arranged by arbitration, provide such accommodation on all steamers employed in the mail service. But the question whether he exercised his right under that provision must depend on what he found to be the attitude of the American postal administration. He was making informal and unofficial inquiries, and until they were concluded he could not say more on the subject, except that the parallel the hon. Member drew with the German steamers was not a fair criterion of the value of such accommodation.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: May I hope that we shall soon have these post offices?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the hon. Member might hope, but he must not expect more than could be fairly drawn from what he had said. As to the case referred to by the hon. Member for Queen's County, the hon. Member was under some misapprehension as to the facts, and under a complete misapprehension as to the position of the Postmaster-General. The Postmaster-General had no authority with regard to pensions or gratuities to any members of the staff; he could only make or refrain from making recommendations to the Treasury. The limit of his power was to refuse, in the case of a person whom he thought undeserving, to give the certificate required under the Superannuation Act that the person in question had served with diligence and fidelity and to the satisfaction of the head of his Department. The power to give a pension was expressly reserved by statute to the Treasury, whose decision was binding and final. The lady to whom the hon Member referred had never been in the direct service of the Postmaster-General. The postmaster at Portarlington received, in addition to his ordinary remuneration, a special allowance out of which he had to provide whatever assistants he required. Miss Blanc was one of the assistants so provided. She was not paid by the Postmaster-General out of monies placed at his disposal by Parliament; she was not his servant, but the servant of the postmaster. It was quite true that she was given notice of discharge by direction of the Postmaster-General, because, although she was not his servant, she was employed for post office purposes, and it was necessary in the public interest to see that efficient assistants were provided. Miss Blanc was given three months' notice to retire because she was reported to be inefficient. The hon. Member had not attempted to disprove that statement; all he had done was to contend that because she was discharged by direction of the Postmaster-General she was his servant and not the servant of the postmaster.

MR. DELANY pointed out that she was discharged under the age limit.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said she had reached the age of 60, but she was not discharged under the age-rule applicable to established servants. In the opinion of the Treasury, assistants engaged by the postmaster, and paid by him out of the allowance which he received for the purpose, were not qualified under the Superannuation Act for pensions or gratuities. He would have been very glad had it been in his power to obtain a gratuity in this case, but in the opinion of the Treasury, whose discretion was absolute and decision final, the law did not permit any such grant to be made. It was suggested that if that was the case he ought to effect a change in the law. He doubted, however, whether any Minister would be in a hurry to re-open the question of superannuation. It was sufficiently difficult to deal with in the old days when discussions were briefer than to-day, but there would be little encouragement to take up so large a question at the present time. In any case it would not be for him as Postmaster-General to re-open the question. The rule was applicable to all branches of the Service, and any amending Bill would have to be introduced, defended, and carried through by the Treasury.

MR. DELANY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could not give a certificate for £1 for every year of service rendered by this lady.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said it was no use giving such a certificate, as the Treasury held that they had no power to make a grant.

MR. J. P. FARRELL pressed for a reply on the point he had previously raised.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL, Dublin University) said the complaint of the hon. Member was that a rate collector had been surcharged by one of the auditors appointed by the Local Government Board. In such a case the rate collector had two remedies. The first was to apply to the Local Government Board for a rehearing, and the Board had jurisdiction to hear the matter on any legal point or on its merits. This rate collector did appeal to the Local Government Board, who as he understood from the hon. Member's statement, confirmed the decision of the auditor. The second remedy was for the person who thought himself aggrieved, to enter the King's Bench Division and apply either for a *mandamus* or for a *certiorari* according to the facts of the case. According to the hon. Member the rate collector threatened that remedy, but owing to his poverty his solicitor was not provided with the necessary funds, and the case was not proceeded with. From the hon. Member's statement he should draw the inference that the rate collector to whom he referred must have had a hopelessly bad case. He did not think there was much cause for complaint in this case because the rate collector had an appeal to the Local Government Board, and they decided the matter against him.

MR. J. P. FARRELL asked if the Solicitor-General would undertake to ask the Local Government Board to reconsider this matter.

MR. JAMES CAMPBELL said he doubted whether they had power to reconsider it because, once they had given their decision, he feared it was final. At the same time he would mention it.

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

THE MOTOR-CARS BILL [LORDS].

As amended, further considered.

Clause (Suspension of licence and disqualification)—

"In page 3, after Clause 3, to insert the following clause: '(1) Any Court before whom a person is convicted of an offence under this Act, or of any offence in connection with the driving of a motor-car, other than a first offence, which consists solely of exceeding any limit of speed fixed under this Act—(*a*) may if the person convicted holds any licence under this Act, suspend that licence for such time as the Court thinks fit, and, if the Court thinks fit, also declare the person convicted disqualified for obtaining a licence for such further time after the expiration of the licence as the Court thinks fit; and (*b*) may, if the person convicted does not hold any licence under this Act, declare him disqualified for obtaining a licence for such time as the Court thinks fit; and (*c*) if the person convicted holds any licence under this Act, shall cause particulars of the conviction and of any order of the Court made under this section, to be endorsed upon any licence held by him, and shall also cause a copy of those particulars to be sent to the council by whom any licence so endorsed has been granted. (2) Any person so convicted, if he holds any licence under this Act, shall produce the licence within a reasonable time, for the purposes of endorsement, and if he fails to do so shall be guilty of an offence under this Act. (3) A licence so suspended by the Court shall, during the term of suspension, be of no effect, and a person whose licence is suspended or who is declared by the Court to be disqualified for obtaining a licence shall during the period of suspension or disqualification be disqualified for obtaining a licence. (4) Any person who is by virtue of an order of the Court under this section disqualified for obtaining a licence may appeal against the order in the same manner as a person may appeal who is ordered to be imprisoned without the option of a fine; and the Court may, if they think fit, pending the appeal, defer the operation of the order. (5) If any person who under the provisions of this Act is disqualified for obtaining a licence, applies for or obtains a licence while he is so disqualified, or if any person whose licence has been endorsed applies for or obtains a licence without giving particulars of the endorsement, that person shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, and any licence so obtained shall be of no effect.—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question "That the clause be read a second time" put, and agreed to.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest) said he thought they ought to have some assurance that licences would not be taken away except for serious offences. It might be right to take away a licence for offences under Clause 1, but to deprive a man of his licence for simply exceeding the speed limit was rather harsh, and an excessive punishment. If his right hon. friend could meet them upon this point, he should be very much obliged. His friends, generally, loyally accepted the decisions which the House had arrived at the other night, although they did not think the Bill was perfect, and their only object now was to amend the measure in such a way that it would be easily workable, and be a real benefit to the community. He begged to move his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the proposed clause, to add the words 'A licence shall not be taken away or suspended, or any person disqualified from taking a licence under this Act, except in consequence of a conviction for an offence under Section 1 of this Act, or for drunkenness whilst in charge of a motor-car.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said that it had been represented to him that so far as this provision applied to professional chauffeurs there might be some hardship involved in depriving a man, who depended on driving a motor-car for his livelihood, of his licence for a first offence of exceeding the speed limit by even a small amount. He suggested the Amendment he had on the Paper which would avoid drivers being deprived of their licence for the first offence but expose them to that penalty for the second offence.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that did not exactly meet his point, and he asked the right hon. Gentleman to consider whether he could not put in the words "or second offence," and deal with the third offence as the one upon which the licence would be taken away.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) thought the right hon. Gentleman might accept this suggestion because an offence against the speed limit might be committed quite unconsciously.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) also appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to agree to this suggestion, because a servant, driving his master out, had to go at the speed his master wished, and it would be rather hard if in consequence a driver lost his licence, and thereby lost his means of livelihood.

MR. WALTER LONG said the Amendment in its present form would not carry out the object of the clause because the first sub-section dealt with this penalty and imposed it with regard to the first offence. It was a little difficult to alter the clause as it stood on the Paper in order to adopt the Amendment of his hon. friend. He did not wish to make the Bill unduly harsh, but he thought there ought to be a distinction between the first and second and subsequent offences, and he preferred the clause as it stood on the Paper. If, however, the House desired to suspend the licence after the second offence he had no objection.

MR. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock) said he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not accept this Amendment. The public ought to be protected from reckless driving, and it was to the driver they must look for protection. The knowledge that a driver would suffer severely for breaking the law was a necessary protection in order to secure the safety of the public. Therefore he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would stand firm against this Amendment.

*MR. MURRAY (Coventry) said that if any person drove a motor-car recklessly he would be dealt with severely under the 1st Section of the Act.

MR. WALTER LONG said it would be necessary to strike out the words "which consists" in the third line of his new clause, and insert after the word "first" the words "or second offence consisting solely of exceeding any limit of speed under this Act." That would not apply to reckless driving or other offences. If his hon. friend would withdraw his Amendment he would move those words.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3 of proposed clause, after the word 'first,' to leave out the words 'offence which consists,' and insert the words 'or second offence consisting.'"—*(Mr. Walter Long.)*

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

Clause (Power to prohibit Motor-cars on special roads).

"In page 4, after Clause 6, to insert the following clause: 'The Local Government Board may, by regulations made under Section 6 of the principal Act, prohibit or restrict the driving of any motor-cars, or of any special kind of motor-cars on any specified highway, or part of a highway, which does not exceed sixteen feet in width, or on which ordinary motor-car traffic would, in their opinion, be especially dangerous.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long*).

Brought up, and read the first time

Motion made and Question, "That the Clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Clause (Regulations as to maximum weight of cars).

"In page 5, after Clause 9, to insert the following clause: '(1) The Local Government Board by regulations made under Section 6 of the principal Act may, as respects any class of vehicle mentioned in the regulations, increase the maximum weights of three tons and four tons mentioned in Section 1 of that Act subject to any conditions as to the use and construction of the vehicle which may be made by the regulations. (2) The power of the Local Government Board to make regulations under Section 6 of The Locomotives on Highways Act, 1896, shall, as respects motor-cars exceeding two tons in weight unladen, include a power to make regulations as to speed.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long*).

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill

The next Amendment on the Paper was a new clause standing in the name of Mr. T. M. HEALY, providing for the payment of compensation for accidents resulting in a child's death.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said his hon. and learned friend the Member for North Louth was not present, but as he had intended to put down a similar clause, he presumed he would be in order in moving that standing in the name of his hon. friend.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid not. A new clause can only be moved by the hon. Member who puts it down.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is it not then within my right to move a similar clause now?

*Mr. SPEAKER: No, the hon. Member has not given the notice which must be given of a new clause.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) at this point entered the House and moved the clause standing in his name. He said that the change in the law which he proposed would make the law in England and Ireland similiar to that now existing in Scotland. There were dangers attaching to motor-car running, and when accidents resulted in the death of a child it was particularly desirable that the motorist should be liable to pay some amount at any rate. He did not think it was an unfair proposal, and the Government, at all events, should not oppose it in principle. He begged to move.

Clause (Compensation for accidents resulting in child's death).

"From and after the passing of this Act, where the death of a minor is caused in England or Ireland by a light locomotive under circumstances which would amount to an offence against this Act, the father or mother of the child may recover damages against the owner of the light locomotive, although no direct pecuniary loss resulted from such death —(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said he took great interest in this matter also. He thought it would be recognised by everybody that the clause dealt with what was undoubtedly a grievance. In the case of an accident where a child was seriously injured, damages could be recovered from the person responsible for the accident, but if a person caused an accident which resulted in the death of a child, there was absolutely no remedy in the way of compensation. Of course, if the child was dead, and there was no monetary loss to the parents, there was no action for damages as in the case of the death of a person upon whose labour his relatives might have to depend. In the case where there were a number of young children, one of whom was killed through the negligence of a motor-car driver, the father might reasonably and fairly ask to be compensated for the loss, and the sum of money received might be used for the education of the brothers and sisters of the child killed. It might be said that they should not limit compensation to accidents resulting from motor-cars, and that the same law should apply to four-in-hand carriages. They were dealing with motor-cars at the present time, and that was why the question came up. But he thought they were all agreed that the law ought to be altered.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) said the proposal was to apply what was at present the law of Scotland to accidents occurring through motors in England and Ireland. He was not surprised that the hon. and learned Member had brought forward this matter. A most deplorable case of accident was brought under his notice by the hon. Member for East Clare. Of course he agreed with the hon. Member that there were many points in the law of Scotland which might be, with advantage, applied south of the Tweed. Though he was an English lawyer he was still a Scotchman. The law of England and Ireland was well settled on the matter that compensation could be given, under such circumstances, only where pecuniary loss was occasioned by the death. It might be a matter for consideration at some future time whether that principle might not be modified, and the giving of a *solatium* allowed, as it was allowed by the law of Scotland. But he thought everyone would agree that it would be a very extraordinary thing to have one law, in a matter of this kind, in the case of motors and another law in the case of carriages. This Bill dealing with the law of motors would render the law almost grotesque if one principle was applied in this case and another in all other cases. Under those circumstances, while he appreciated the motive which had led to the moving of the Amendment, and more particularly in view of the deplorable accident to which his attention had been called, he would suggest to the House that the Amendment ought not to be allowed.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) said the clause only proposed to give effect to the volume of feeling in the country that the law should be altered in the direction indicated. One of the most competent County Councils in the country had passed a resolution exactly on the lines of the clause moved by the hon. Member. The argument as to the application of a different law to a motor-car from that applied to a coach was one which would not hold water. A coach or a carriage did not inflict the injury and the devastation, and was not guilty of the massacres of which motor-cars had been guilty. He hoped the hon. Member would take the opinion of the House on this clause. It would considerably assist the Attorney-General in pressing on the Government the desirability of bringing the English and Irish law up to the high standard of that of Scotland.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he did not think the objection made to this clause by the Attorney-General was altogether a valid objection. It was based merely upon the pedantry of the law as it existed. He did not see why a motorist who was responsible for an accident in England should not suffer, while in Scotland he would have to pay a considerable penalty. That was a condition of things which ought to be remedied.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he admitted that there should be a general alteration of the law, and that there should not be one law for motorists and another for carriages.

SIR WALTER FOSTER said that was just what he ventured to describe as the pedantry of the legal view. He did not see why they should not modify the law whenever they had an opportunity. He thought they should modify it in this case and say that the killing of a child in England or Ireland would be followed by the same penalty as it would be in Scotland. He knew himself that there was a great deal of dread and fear on the part of the public with regard to motor-car driving, and every little provision they could put into this Bill which would reassure the public, would be to the advantage both of the motorists and of the public. He did not see any objection to this clause being inserted from the point of view of motorists themselves. They drove generally with great care and skill, and he had nothing to say against them. Of course there were exceptions, and the exceptions were those particular gentlemen who were described as "road hogs." These gentlemen did not receive any sympathy from any section of the House of Commons. But the motorists who drove their cars carefully though rapidly would be anxious to have everything put into this Bill that would reassure the public mind. The acceptance of this clause would have the additional advantage of improving the general law and placing it on the same high level as that of Scotland.

MR. SPEAR said he certainly thought that where a motorist broke the law and killed a child he ought to pay compensation.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said if his hon. and learned friend went to a division he would vote for this clause. It proposed to extend, to a particular class of cases, the obviously just and righteous law which prevailed in Scotland. Motor-car traffic was a new feature on the highways, and these vehicles were much more likely to lead to loss of life than horse-drawn vehicles. Therefore, when they had a Bill dealing with this new invention of science, they should apply the principles of equity, and not be hampered by any mere technicality or analogy with other laws. There was a precedent for what was proposed in the law of Scotland.

What has happened would happen constantly. Nothing would operate as such a deterrent to drivers of motor-cars as to have the terror of this clause before them. It would touch them upon the most sensitive part; and there would be a dread that if a child was run over, the parent of that child would have compensation adjudicated to him by a jury. The clause only provided for compensation to a parent, but the child might be an orphan, and he suggested that the clause might be extended so as to include compensation to guardians.

* MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said he did not oppose the clause, and he might say that he had never heard of a child who had been killed by being run over by a motor-car. He hoped, however, that if this clause were accepted, the principle would be extended so as to include every vehicle; otherwise they would have the anomaly of motor-vans being liable while horse-drawn vans were not, and that would be unjust.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said he would support the clause of his hon. and learned friend; but it was most annoying to hear the useless reiteration of certain hon. Members in their talk about massacres, as if every motor-car driver was a sort of a Herod who went out on to the road to murder children. He knew that the public mind had been alarmed unnecessarily about motor-cars, and that was largely due to the speeches and writing of prejudiced men, who had resolved that this industry should be knocked on the head if they could manage it. He asked hon. Members to vote for this clause, and to realise that the people connected with the motor industry had every desire to see it conducted with safety.

*Sir ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said it did not seem to him to be necessary to have such a display of feeling on either side in regard to this clause. He thought that the proposal in the clause was only fair—that where there had been a breach of the Act, either by reckless driving, or excessive speed, and a fatal accident occurred, there should be a right of compensation. It should be remembered that parents had an accruing interest in the lives of their children.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said he would be sorry if all the support for this clause came from the other side of the House. He entirely approved of the principle, and if this were a Bill dealing with horse-drawn vehicles he should like to see it applied to them. If it was necessary to prove pecuniary loss before an action for damages could lie, surely the parents lost all they had spent on the child up to the time of its death, and all the support they might expect in their old age when the child grew into a man. He confessed that he would be naturally influenced by the legal or constitutional argument of the right hon. and learned Attorney-General, but if they waited till a general law were passed on such matters as that dealt with by the clause under discussion, they might have to wait till Doomsday. As the Attorney-General only objected to this clause on the ground of its being special legislation, and otherwise approved of the principle, he would make a suggestion which would relieve the situation and possibly induce the hon. Member (Mr. Healy) to withdraw the clause. Would the Attorney-General undertake to bring in a Bill next session to amend the general law in this respect? If not, he (the speaker) would vote for the clause.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln) said that this was a clause which he would be very glad to see applied to all traffic on the highways. It was very seldom that one noticed in the papers the death of a child by being run over by a motor-car, but very often they saw reports of children being killed by being run over by drays or vans. He supported the clause, but expressed the hope that at some future date the Attorney-General would apply the principle, by means of a general law, to all classes of traffic on the highways.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that he should certainly, in conjunction with the Attorney-General for Ireland, and the Lord Advocate for Scotland, take the matter into consideration; but he was bound to say that it was surrounded with a great many difficulties which were not fully appreciated by the House, and he must not be understood to pledge the Government in any way to legislation.

MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) said that as he understood the law at present, a master was not responsible for an accident caused by his coachman when acting outside the scope of his proper employment. Why should the owner of a motor-car be made responsible for the acts of his driver if he were acting outside his responsible duty? He therefore deprecated any alteration at this stage, and in the present Bill, of the well-established principles of the law relating to responsibility for accidents.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 69; Noes. 123. (Division List, No. 259.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Farrell, James Patrick
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Fyler, John Arthur
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Lambert, George
Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Doherty, William
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*
Robson, William Snowdon
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (*Northants*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Toulmin, George
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (*York, W.R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. T. M. Healy and Mr. William Redmond.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Campbell, J. H. M (*Dublin Univ*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. A. J (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalziel, James Henry
Davenport, W. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, South*
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Ld. G (*Midd'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, Jno. (*Kent, Faversham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants*
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Nicholson, William Graham
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George

Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Rea, Russell
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rose, Charles Day
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Seely, Maj J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Wodehouse, Rt Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he did not wish to occupy time by discussing this matter. The Amendment was a reasonable one, and he hoped it would be accepted. He begged to move.

Clause (Cars at rest upon highways.)

"Where the driver of a motor-car requires to visit any house or shop for the purpose of business or refreshment it shall be lawful for him so to do, provided the engine of the car has been stopped; but nothing herein contained shall relieve from any penalty for causing obstruction when the driver, after a reasonable interval, has been required by a constable, or the owner or occupier of any adjacent premises, to proceed."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the clause was not desirable. It was lawful for a motorist, so long as he did not create an obstruction, to stop in the road for any length of time.

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out Subsection 2."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'constable,' to insert the words 'in uniform on duty.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. DALZIEL supported the Amendment on the ground that if there had been no offence committed the constable had no right to stop him at all.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the clause which they were now discussing was a clause for apprehending any driver who committed an offence. If an offence had been committed no objection could be raised.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge) asked who was going to be the judge. A man might be stopped for committing an offence which a policeman thought he had committed, but that offence had to be proved. He hoped the Amendment would be pressed.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said it seemed to him only right and consistent with the duty of a constable that, whether in or out of uniform, he should apprehend if he saw an offence had been committed.

MAJOR JAMESON said this clause ought certainly to be altered. He was strongly in favour of the Amendment and hoped it would be passed.

MR. WALTER LONG appealed to the Committee to arrive at a decision on this question. The provision in this section gave less power of arrest than any other Act dealing with ordinary traffic on the highway, and, therefore, it could not be contended that motorists were penalised to a greater extent than other people.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said motorists were also under the Highways Act of 1835, and therefore could be arrested by any person. How was a motorist to know if a man came out from behind a building in a tweed coat and pot hat that he was a policeman?

Question put, and negatived.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford) said he now desired to move the Amendment, which provided that a policeman should only be able to arrest when he actually saw the offence committed. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 23, leave out the words 'who commits,' and to insert the words 'whom he sees commit.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'who commits' stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG hoped this Amendment would not be pressed. The clause was perfectly clear, and no good could be done by altering the words.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 24, to leave out the words, 'and who,' and insert the words 'if he.'"

"In page 1, line 25, to leave out the word, 'whose,' and insert the words 'if the.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

MR. T. M. HEALY called attention to the fact that the word "and," in line 28 should read "or."

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

STRABANE, RAPHOE, AND CONVOY RAILWAY BILL [BY ORDER].

Lords Amendments further considered.

Lords Amendment—

"In the Title, page 1, line 2, to leave out the word 'railway,' and insert the words 'a railway.'"

The first Amendment, again read.

Question again proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

MR. MOONEY said he was a member of the Committee which considered this Bill upstairs. The Bill, as originally drafted, proposed three railways, one of which was dropped. The other two railways formed a continuous line from Strabane to Letterkenny, but the Lords had struck out railway No. 2 and had only granted the railway as far as Convoy. The Committee upstairs sanctioned the two railways because they considered that they would link up the whole County of Donegal. The Bill, as amended by the Lords, would only provide for a spur railway. He was authorised to say that if this Bill had come to that House earlier in the session the Chairman of the Committee would himself have moved the rejection of the Lords Amendment. In view of the statement which had been made by the Chief Secretary, he hoped the promoters would take the Bill as it stood and come to Parliament next session for railway No. 2.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.) said as a portion of the County Donegal was affected by the difference which had been made in this Bill in the other House, he would just like to say a few words in support of the Amendment of his hon. friend. If the Bill had been carried in its original form it would have afforded a speedy transit for fish, which was the main industry of that part of the country, with only one transhipment to the port of exportation for England, and thus conduced in all probability to a large fresh fish trade growing up. Having regard to the efforts made this session, and last, to develop this industry, it was of great importance that any Bill to promote the industry should not be mutilated. As the Bill stood they were no better off than they were before. He associated himself with the Motion of his hon. friend, and protested against what had been done in the other House.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): As representing the constituency in which Strabane was situated, he hoped the Chief Secretary would be able to carry out his promise to have this length of railway completed. As originally suggested, Letterkenny at one end and Strabane at the other were to be the termini of the railway, and if that idea were carried out there would be a direct means of transhipment to England. As the Bill now stood, the object of the promoters had been completely defeated by what had taken place. The hon. Member for Donegal was not desirous of pushing this Motion to a conclusion and so lose the Bill altogether. He had only moved it to call attention to what had been done.

*Dr. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.) trusted the Government next session would do all they could to help this very important undertaking. It would be a most profitable railway, and he hoped the protest of the Irish Members would have its effect. These lines would be a great benefit to the people in that part of Ireland. He protested against what had taken place in the House of Lords, where a number of Scotch Lords, entirely unconnected with Ireland, had ruthlessly thrown out a Bill which had the unanimous support of a Committee of the House of Commons, and would have greatly benefited a very prosperous and thickly-populated district of Ireland.

Dr. MACDONNELL (Queen's Co., Leix.) said before the Bill left the House he might say, after the strong expressions of opinion by the right hon. Gentleman at the afternoon sitting, he thought, on behalf of the promoters of the line, he would not be further justified in opposing the Lords Amendments. The promoters thought that not only to the right hon. Gentleman but to the Irish Government, they owed a deep debt of gratitude for the strong position they had taken up in the matter.

Question put, and agreed to,

Subsequent Lords Amendments agreed to.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL [LORDS] (BY ORDER).

Ordered, That Standing Order 235 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a second time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read a second time, and committed.

AUCHTERARDER TOWN COUNCIL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Considered; read the third time, and passed.

Mr. Hemphill.

MOTOR-CARS BILL [LORDS].

As amended, further considered.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 28, to leave out the word 'and' and insert the word 'or.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. LOUIS SINCLAIR said the clause did not say who the false address was given to. It might be to a little boy and then an offence was committed. This as at very important point. This clause was a present set up would knock the motor industry on the head. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 29, after the word 'address' to insert the words 'to a police constable in uniform on duty.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. WALTER LONG ventured to appeal to his noble friend not to press this Amendment, and not to move any similar Amendments on the Paper. The hon. Gentleman did not realise that there was considerable interest at stake on this Bill passing through the House, and on its operation after it passed; if the hon. Gentleman insisted on moving Amendments of this kind, in future, he would be doing the greatest possible damage to the motor traffic of this country.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, to leave out lines 15 to 24."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. WALTER LONG said in regard to the next Amendment, whilst he was anxious that no injustice should be done to the driver, at the same time they were determined to throw upon him the responsibility of seeing that his number was distinct. The object of the Government was to make it clear that the driver should see that his number, which was the means of identification, was not obscured.

In order to insure that, he proposed to insert these words. If then he had taken reasonable and practical means to keep his number clear, he would not be liable. He asked the Committee to accept these words.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 30, after the word 'that' to insert the words 'He has taken all steps reasonably practicable to prevent.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that personally he would prefer the words he had suggested.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 30, to leave out the words 'had been,' and to insert the word 'being.'"

"In page 2, lines 31 and 32, to leave out the words 'by unavoidable causes arising from natural conditions over which he had no control.'"

"In page 2, line 37, at end, to insert the words 'and (b) the Council of any County or County Borough in which the business premises of any manufacturer of or dealer in motor-cars are situated, may, on payment of such annual fee, not exceeding £3, as the council require, assign to that manufacturer or dealer a general identification mark which may be used for any car on trial after completion, or on trial by an intending purchaser, and a person shall not be liable to a penalty under this section while so using the car if the mark so assigned is fixed upon the car in the manner required by the council in accordance with regulations of the Local Government Board made under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said the Amendment he now desired to move simply proposed to make a person who transgressed the clause liable to a penalty of £5 instead of imprisonment. He instanced the case of a man taken ill on a journey and handing his car over to another person to take to its destination; under such circumstances a fine would be quite sufficient.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, to leave out the words of line 2, and insert the words 'liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £5.'"—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said it must be assumed that a certain amount of common sense would be exercised in dealing with such a measure as this, and nobody would take the word "employ" to include the case mentioned by the hon. Member Apart from such extreme cases, the Government held that every driver must have a licence, and they could not accept the Amendment on the slender grounds which had been put forward.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ARTHUR MORTON (Deptford) moved to raise from sixteen to seventeen years the age at which a person would be eligible to obtain a licence. A youth of sixteen could hardly be expected to possess those qualities of nerve, judgment, and skill which were generally associated with older persons. The age for cab-drivers and locomotive-drivers was higher than sixteen years, and he hoped the Amendment would commend itself to the House.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 16, to leave out the word 'sixteen' and insert the word 'seventeen.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Morton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'sixteen' stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said he had had representations made to him from both sides on this question. On the one hand, it was said that a boy of sixteen might run amuck and do an enormous amount of damage, while it was urged, on the other hand, that, if the age were limited, a great injury would be done to a growing industry, and that lads trained in a motor-school were just as capable to drive at sixteen as at seventeen or eighteen years of age. He had endeavoured to arrive at fair conclusions on the various matters dealt with in the Bill, but this was one with regard to which he had no definite opinion, and he would leave it to the House to say for themselves whether the age should be sixteen or seventeen.

MR. BROADHURST thought that sixteen was an exceedingly low age for a lad to be placed in charge of one of these powerful machines, which were as difficult and dangerous as a torpedo boat, and whose terrors would be enormously increased if they were to be driven by mere schoolboys. According to the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy, it took five years to learn to drive a motor-car, so that a lad would have to begin at the age of eleven, or three years before he was permitted to leave the elementary school. The age ought certainly not to be lower than seventeen, and if the proposal could be amended to make it eighteen he would gladly support the higher limit.

MR. DALZIEL thought the Amendment was not one of first-class importance. Some of the best drivers of motor-cars were young men of fifteen years of age, and he knew of one young lady of fifteen who would drive with any expert he knew. With regard to the period of training necessary, what he had said was that to learn to take the machine to pieces and to understand every possible disorganisation would take the best part of three years. But what the House had to bear in mind was the case of parents, who, looking round for a calling for their sons, saw that this industry was growing into popularity, and, believing that in it was to be found a congenial and remunerative employment, paid considerable premiums in order that their sons, at the age of twelve or thirteen, might be taught the mastery of the machine with a view to becoming drivers. He did not think it a vital point of the Bill, but he hoped the age of sixteen would be adhered to.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS understood the object of the Bill to be to give reasonable privileges to a new invention, and at the same time to protect the public against the dangers and inconveniences which had been constantly felt in connection with motor-cars. If these complicated machines were to be allowed to travel along the highways at an unprecedented rate of speed, involving dangers which required great judgment and decision on the part of the driver, it would be contrary to the objects of the Bill to place in charge youths of sixteen years of age. Considering the general intention of the Bill, he thought it was more in consonance with the public interest that the age should be seventeen.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU maintained that the modern motor-car was so controllable in its nature that there was really no harm in a boy of sixteen being in charge. He believed that any person of average intelligence at the age of sixteen was fit to be trusted with a motor-car. One of the great evils, which motorists hoped to counteract, was the driving of cars by persons who were not properly qualified, but if the age were raised to seventeen it would be difficult to commence to train men as young as was desirable. He hoped to see the day when a proper body would give certificates for motor-driving just as the Jockey Club gave licenses to jockeys, but if the age at which men could begin to drive was placed so high there would not be the same opportunity of training them. If men were to be properly trained they must be "caught young," and sixteen was not too low an age if they were to be trained as they should be.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) thought that boys of sixteen were in many cases competent to control motor-cars, and that parents and guardians might be trusted to prevent their undertaking duties of this character unless they were competent to do so.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) expressed the opinion that owners of such costly machines as motor-cars were not likely to entrust them to incompetent persons.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) approved of beginning to train the drivers of these powerful machines as early as sixteen years of age, and urged that they should have two or three years' training in the work shop. Boys were not permitted to drive locomotive engines, although they had a couple of rails to run on. Moreover, lads of sixteen had not the sufficient strength of wrist to turn a spanner or screwdriver. He thought that eighteen or nineteen would be a more suitable age for allowing them to take the full responsibility of drivers.

MR. LLEWELLYN (Somersetshire, N.) contended that for powerful machines, which were most dangerous if carelessly handled, it was necessary to have drivers with an experience of the road, a knowledge of what horses and drivers could do, and of what was likely to happen, which could hardly be expected from a boy of sixteen.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 79; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 260.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(*Manch'r*
Balfour,Rt.HnGeraldW(*Leeds*
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Campbell J.H.M(*Dublin Univ.*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Dalziel, James Henry
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hn.Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fison, Frederick William
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Houston, Robert Paterson
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
Majendie, James A. H.
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(*Bute*
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Doherty, William
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Rea, Russell
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rose, Charles Day
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Clevland*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B.(*Isleof Wight*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Talbot, Lord E (*Chichester*)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Scott-Montagu and
Mr. Griffith Boscawen.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Bigwood, James
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bousfield, William Robert
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cautley, Henry Strother
Chapman, Edward
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Farrell, James Patrick
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Gardner, Ernest
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon, J.(*Londonderry,South*
Greene,Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs.*)
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. CharlesSeale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson,Sir A. (*Stafford,W.*
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Howard,John(*Kent,Faversh'm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Joyce, Michael
Keswick, William
Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
Lawson,Jn.Grant(*Yorks.N.R.*
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Mount, William Arthur
O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Shackleton, David James
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward

Spencer,RtHon CR(*Northants*
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas,David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thompson,DrEC(*Monaghn,N.*
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley,H.(*Ashton-und.-Lyn*
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R(*Bath*
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Morton and Mr. Llewellyn.

Word "seventeen" there inserted in the Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 17, after the word 'licence,' to insert the words 'except that a licence limited to driving motor-cycles may be granted to a person over the age of fourteen years.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 25, to leave out the words 'or his horse or vehicle,' and insert the words 'whether on foot, on horseback, or in a vehicle, or to any horse or vehicle in charge of any person.'"

"In page 3, line 29, after the word 'liable' to insert the words 'on summary conviction.'"

"In page 3, line 30, to leave out the word 'each,' and insert the words 'the first.'"

"In page 3, line 30, to leave out the words 'on summary conviction.'"

"In page 3, line 31, to leave out the words 'or in the case of a,' and insert the words 'and in respect of the.'"

"In page 3, line 31, to leave out the word 'conviction,' and insert the words 'offence to a fine.'"

"In page 3, line 33, to leave out the words 'shall be subject.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 33, after the word 'or' to insert the words 'in the discretion of the Court.'"—(*Mr Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU asked why the right hon. Gentleman proposed to insert those words.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was simply a small drafting Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 2, to leave out the words 'and giving.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 3, after the word 'register' to insert 'and the giving of those particulars.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 28, to leave out the words 'provided that,' and insert the words 'but a person shall not under any circumstances drive a motor-car on a public highway at a speed exceeding twenty miles per hour, and.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question "That the words 'provided that' stand part of the Bill," put, and negatived.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"To leave out the word 'and' and insert the words 'between sunrise and one hour after sunset, or at a speed exceeding twelve miles an hour from one hour after sunset until sunrise on the following day.'"—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'and' stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said his objection to the Amendment was that he believed it would constitute a fresh danger to the public. Under this Bill the House was enacting that every one must drive to the general safety of the public. There were nights, no doubt, when a driver might be able to see as well as in the day time; but in his judgment it would be very dangerous to put in the Bill a provision that the rate of speed at night time should be twelve miles an hour. It was incumbent on drivers of motor-cars to exercise caution as to the speed at which they drove cars on dark nights, for over a great part of the journey they would be passing through dark and narrow roads. Twelve miles an hour would be an excessive speed in the majority of cases at night, and he trusted that the House would impose the obligation on drivers to consider the safety of the public. This proposal constituted a very great danger to the public, and he hoped the House would not accept it.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) saw no reason why a limit should not be put in for driving at night. Even upon moonlight nights, under the most favourable circumstances, twelve miles an hour could not be exceeded. He thought twelve miles an hour was quite as reasonable for the night as for the day. It was most important that in the night the limit should be fixed.

MR. WILLIAM M'ARTHUR (Cornwall, St. Austell) thought that twelve miles an hour was too high a speed for night time. The main consideration for drivers should be the safety of the public rather than any adherence to a hard and fast limit. He sincerely hoped the Government would not accept the Amendment of his hon. friend behind him.

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth) said he belonged to a class of people who still rode a bicycle, and he confessed that motor-cars interfered with his enjoyment by day. If a man saw his way, and the road and the night was clear, why should he not go as fast as he liked? There was less chance of destroying anybody else. If he was driving on an intricate and difficult road, he would not wish to drive at a reckless speed. If there was any occasion on which they could give licence to drivers and leave the matter of speed to their discretion, it was at night. A man would not wish to destroy himself, or his motor-car. He, therefore, would not limit the speed as proposed.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said the different natural conditions of day and night dictated the speeds. Days were, for motor purposes, practically uniformly light, but the light at night varied from almost daylight to pitch darkness, and a night limit would be both useless and wrong, especially as there was generally less traffic at night. The proposed limit was absolutely unnecessary.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 4, line 32, to leave out the words 'the speed of any,' and insert the words 'a person shall not drive a.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. DALZIEL moved an Amendment providing that no conviction should take place under the section unless the exact and measured rate of speed was produced. The President of the Local Government Board had thought it right to insert a speed limit in the Bill. He still thought the right hon. Gentleman was wrong, and he ventured to say, if the question were properly discussed, the House would support that opinion. But they had now to recognise the fact that twenty miles an hour would be the speed limit, at all events for a time. If they were to have a speed limit, it was only fair that a person, charged with going beyond it, should have the fact properly proved before being convicted. No policeman should be entitled to say that in his opinion a car was going at a certain speed. The highest experts said it was absolutely impossible to tell, simply by looking on, whether a car was going at twenty, twenty-five, or thirty miles an hour. It was surely reasonable to ask that exact evidence of speed should be produced. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at the end, to insert the words, 'Provided always that the exact and measured rate of speed is produced.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the speed would ordinarily be taken by police constables, and he submitted that it would be quite unreasonable to say that there should never be a conviction for going at a grossly excessive rate of speed, unless there had been such a speed measure as was contemplated by the hon. Member. The Amendment which his right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board was going to move, was the right one. He proposed to provide that "a person shall not be convicted, under this provision, for exceeding the limit of speed of twenty miles merely on the opinion of one witness as to the rate of speed." That fairly met the circumstances. The effect of the Amendment now before the House would be that although there were numbers of witnesses to prove that a car was travelling at a grossly excessive rate of speed, no conviction could be obtained unless the exact rate of speed was certified.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) said it was little short of absurd to expect a mere looker-on to give a really reliable statement as to the speed at which a motor-car was travelling. How could anyone tell whether a car was going at eighteen miles or twenty-four miles an hour? It was utterly beyond the capacity of the human eye. Unless they had a mechanical means of testing the speed, he did not believe they could enforce the speed limit at all. He believed the solution of the question would be not to have a speed limit.

MAJOR JAMESON said that all they asked, now that there was a speed limit, was that there should be a legal test of the speed, but the right hon. Gentleman absolutely refused to allow that. He asked the Committee if there was ever anything so outrageous as the proposal that a motor driver should be liable to be sent to prison on the mere *ipse dixit* of an ordinary person, who gave an opinion on a matter of speed which was admittedly difficult to determine.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that anybody who had tried to test speed knew how difficult it was. A friend of his own had recently made some tests in Victoria Street in the middle of the day, and the following figures gave the result of his observations. He found that in some instances the speed per hour of omnibuses was 11 miles; covered vans 11½ miles; private carriages and coster carts 12½ miles; hansom cabs 12¾ miles; and bicycles 16½ miles. He thought there was a great deal to be said for the amendment.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said a constable would find it extremely difficult to ascertain the exact speed of a motor, unless he had a stop watch in his hand. A stop watch would enable him to tell fairly accurately a speed of say twenty-five miles an hour, but if he was taking the test over a short distance and the motor-car was going (as many did now) forty or fifty miles an hour, it would be a great question if he could take the rate of speed quite accurately. To make a prosecution dependent on his doing so would nullify the safeguard of the speed limit in the Bill.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that if this Amendment were agreed to, they might rest satisfied there would be very few convictions. In the eventuality of this Amendment being accepted, would the Automobile Club undertake to supply stop watches to everybody? He hoped the Amendment would not be pressed.

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) thought they might trust the police to deal as effectively with motor traffic as they now dealt with ordinary traffic. It seemed to him that this Amendment contained two assumptions, firstly, that the witnesses in motor cases would deliberately state what they knew to be untrue, and, secondly, that the magistrates would always accept the evidence of people unworthy of credence. He thought the House would do wrong not to trust the men who looked after the public interest in regard to ordinary traffic and other matters which related to the liberty of the subject, to look after the public interest in regard to motor-car traffic. Why should they have some different method applied in regard to evidence on this particular class of offence from that applied to other offences? He hoped the House would not consent to this change in the ordinay law.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) said he hoped that his right hon. friend would stand to his position. He was certain that if the Amendment were adopted, the confidence of the public in the efficacy of the Act to restrain the speed of motor-cars on the highways would be considerably weakened.

MR. PHILIP FOSTER (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon) said he thought that if this proposed test of speed was adopted there would be endless traps set all over the country for motorists.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said that there were three classes of persons who had business on the highways to whom the speed limit should not be applied—first, firemen; second, bishops or priests who were going to minister to a dying soul; third, doctors who were hurrying to attend a patient. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at the end, to insert the words 'Provided always that a medical man driving a motor-car or cycle for the purpose of attending a patient in urgent need of his assistance, or a member of a fire brigade attending a fire, shall not be liable for exceeding the speed limits under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said that he hoped that his hon. friend would not press his Amendment, which really meant that a medical man should have a licence to risk the lives of various persons in order to save the life of another person. In that way he was likely to do more harm in one direction, than he was likely to do good by his professional skill in another. Then, if a medical man was to be allowed to go at a greater speed than twenty miles an hour, was he going to have a special mark on his car in the daytime, and a special light at night?

SIR WALTER FOSTER said he was bound to say that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had really disposed of the Amendment. He knew that his hon. friend had been in communication with a large number of the medical profession who felt strongly on the point; but as most of them had been going for many years past at a much less speed than twenty miles an hour, he did not think they would be called upon to go at any greater speed in the future.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU said he would like to suggest to the right hon. Gentleman whether he could not find some words to prevent the fines being made unduly cumulative. He moved—

"In line 38, insert these words, 'That the fines under this Act shall not be accumulative within the space of twenty-four hours.'"

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at the end, to insert the words 'the fines under this Act shall not be accumulative within the space of twenty-four hours.'"—(*Mr. Scott-Montagu.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that what his hon. friend really proposed was that after being fined for his first offence, a motorist could go on breaking the law with impunity for the rest of the twenty-four hours.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WALTER LONG said he had an Amendment to move in redemption of a promise made in Committee.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at end, to add the words 'but a person shall not be convicted under this provision for exceeding the limit of speed of twenty miles merely on the opinion of one witness as to the rate of speed.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 38, at end, to insert the words '(2) Where a person is prosecuted for an offence under this section, he shall not be convicted unless he is warned of the intended prosecution at the time the offence is committed, or unless notice of the intended prosecution is sent to him or to the owner of the car as entered on the register within such time after the offence is committed, not exceeding twenty-one days, as the Court think reasonable.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 4, line 39, to leave out Sub-section 2."

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 14, at beginning, to insert the words '(1) Local authorities within the meaning of the last preceding section shall give public notice of any regulation of the Local Government Board made in pursuance of this Act prohibiting or restricting the use of motor-cars on any highway or part of a highway, or limiting the speed of motor-cars within any limits or place, and for the purpose of giving effect to any such regulation shall place notices in conspicuous places on or near the highway, part of a highway, limits, or place to which the regulation refers.' "—(*Mr Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, lines 15 and 16, to leave out the words 'the councils of boroughs and elsewhere than in boroughs of counties,' and insert the words 'local authorities within the meaning of the last preceding section.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. J. A. PEASE said that he was informed that County Councils had no control over the highways, although they had the power of making by-laws which, however, they could not enforce. In order to safeguard the interests of the public, he would suggest that instead of "local authorities" in the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, there should be inserted the words "road authorities."

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that in the boroughs the County Councils had no right of entry, and the former objected strongly to this provision. The boroughs were entitled to the control of the roads and their surfaces in their own areas. He objected to the Amendment.

Mr. WALTER LONG said that though many County Councils had no direct jurisdiction over the highways, no right of entry and no right to put up notice boards, it would be easy for them to make the necessary arrangements with the highway authorities. The County Councils would receive the fees for the registration of motor cars, and were best chosen, therefore, to bear the expense of putting up these notices.

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 26, to leave out the words 'convicted of an offence under this Act and.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 27, to leave out the words 'ten pounds' and insert the words 'twenty shillings under this Act.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said this was a compromise to meet the difficulties raised in various quarters on the question of appeal.

MR. DALZIEL said he presumed it was useless to challenge the decision of the right hon. Gentleman. But he would point out that the right of the appeal would be of comparatively little value, for after all it would be an appeal from magistrates in Petty Sessions to magistrates in Quarter Sessions—practically the same men. They would be the same type of anti-motoring, unreasonable men. He therefore did not attach much importance to the appeal.

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 1, at beginning, to insert the words 'It is hereby declared that.' "

"In page 6, line 1, leave out the word, 'shall' and insert the words 'and the principal Act.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 22, at beginning, to leave out the word 'to.' "—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 22, to leave out the word 'to.'"

"In page 6, line 31, at end, to insert the words '(5) Any fine under this Act shall be recoverable by imprisonment in terms of the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, line 19, at end, to insert the words: '(2.) Sub-sections 1 and 3 of Article 32 of The Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, shall be substituted for Sub-sections 1 and 5 of Section 87 of the The Local Government Act, 1888.'"

"In page 7, line 25, at end, to insert the words: '(3) Sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of The Criminal Evidence Act, 1898, shall extend to Ireland in the case of a person charged with an offence under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Amendments agreed to.

MAJOR JAMESON moved an Amendment excluding motor-cycles. He said it was clear that motor-cycles were not nearly so dangerous as motor-cars. Indeed the rider of a motor-cycle, himself, ran by far the greatest risk, and was the first one to be hurt if an accident happened. It was generally the poor man who invested his £5 in a motor-cycle to enable him to travel to and from his work, and he therefore hoped the right hon. Gentleman would as far as possible strike motor-cycles out of the Act.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, line 31, after the word 'car' to insert the words 'nor shall it include a motor-cycle.'"—(*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND hoped his hon. friend would enlighten the House as to where motor cycles could be got for £5. He opposed the Amendment and would like to remind the right hon. Gentleman that only the other day a most lamentable and deplorable accident was caused by a motor cycle.

MR. WALTER LONG trusted that the Amendment would not be pressed. The penalties were in the discretion of the magistrates, and the maximum and not the minimum was fixed.

MAJOR JAMESON: I ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD HUGH CECIL pointed out that, under Standing Order 45, provision as to the duration of the Bill must be put in a clause by itself, whereas it was part of Clause 17. It had better be made Clause 18.

*MR. SPEAKER: That will be done.

MR. WALTER LONG appealed to the House to read the Bill a third time at once.

Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (No. 2) BILL.

As amended, considered.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) moved various drafting Amendments, which were agreed to.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) thought the Bill a very reasonable one. But he desired to point out, though it went some way towards making it possible for local authorities, in town districts, to provide buildings for people who were driven to reside outside towns, there were a large number of other subjects to be dealt with before they could consider that adequate and sufficient powers were given to the local authorities to deal with the serious conditions that existed in our large towns and rural districts. The powers conferred would, sooner or later, have to be made much more stringent if they were to deal with a growing and crying evil. A scandalous state of things existed in rural districts especially, because of the scarcity of houses, and they wanted a much stronger Bill than the one for which they were now thanking the right hon. Gentleman.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT, as a member of the Committee which dealt with the question, also expressed his thanks to the right hon. Gentleman for having pressed the Bill forward, and especially for the extension of the period of repayment of loans from sixty to eighty years. That was a material advance in solving a great social problem, for which those interested in municipal action must be grateful. But land ought, as he recorded in Committee, to have been treated as a permanent asset or the terms of repayment made, in respect of land, 100 years. This would have enabled rents to be reduced, and so the classes contemplated by Parliament to be served by better houses, which ought to be done.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) also desired to tender his thanks to the right hon. Gentleman for having brought forward this Bill so promptly and removed so many difficulties.

*Mr. THORNTON (Clapham): As the representative of a large working class constituency joined in the expression of thanks for a measure which would help to get rid of the slums of London. This Bill provided just the requisite link between previous enactments which gave local authorities power to clear out insanitary areas. Hesitating Borough Councils confronted with such evils would now be obliged to act. He looked forward to a brighter future for our poorest population.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS EXPENSES BILL.

[Third Reading.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): entered a further protest against the action, taken for the first time this year, in this and the Naval and Military Works Bills of dating the period for the repayment of borrowed money from the time the money was actually lent instead of from the date of the commencement of the works. He hoped that system would not be extended.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) replied that the plan seemed to be a most reasonable one.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

REVENUE BILL.

(Considered in Committee.)

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) suggested to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that, considering the late period of the session, and the fact that this clause had not been considered by the home manufacturers, the Committee should not proceed with it.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) asked for an explanation of the clause. The Government which was so divided on the question of free trade *versus* protection were, by this Bill, proposing to give the importer of foreign goods an advantage over home manufacturers. The German would set up a little distillery and manufacture cheap spirit at an enormous profit, because he was not hampered by the restrictions that the Government placed upon the man at home. This clause was needlessly in favour of the German spirit manufacturers as against the home distiller. It simply said, "pity the sorrows of the poor importer," and it put him on the same level as the man who was living on the home soil, paying the country's taxes and was bound by all the restrictions. The English did not make very much spirit, but that was not the case with the Irish or Scotch, and having regard to the rapid development of the motor-car assassination industry, they were looking forward to making a much larger quantity of cheap spirit. He went into this question in Committee upstairs some years ago, and his experience told him that the man who was connected with the Customs Department was to some extent a patriot and was in favour of his own country as against the foreigner, but the exciseman, who had only to do with the Excise Department, was a parochial-minded man who cared for nothing but getting in the revenue. He strongly opposed the acceptance of this clause.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) said he was not surprised that the hon. and learned Gentleman failed to understand the practical meaning of the clause. If there was any real objection to the clause he could not press it, but it was really brought forward in the interest of home manufacturers of xylonite and other articles, because an old law practically imposed on articles imported in which spirit was used, duty to the extent of 11s. 6d. a gallon. As a matter of fact, this duty had collected because of its highly protective character while the home manufacturers paid only 6d. a gallon. It was in the interest of the home manufacturers that the Government was induced to bring forward this clause.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Split the Cabinet and resign on it.

*MR. RITCHIE said the intention of the clause was to make the foreign importer pay duty on the articles imported and thus establish an equality. If the hon. Gentleman thought this clause ought not to be proceeded with, he would not press it.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said he agreed with the hon. and learned Gentleman that nothing could be more detrimental to the home manufacturers than to encourage the importation of xylonite and other articles in the production of which cheap foreign spirit was used. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer wanted these articles made, why did he not give the people of this country an opportunity of making them. The spirit employed could be distilled here and would be no worse than the stuff that came from Germany and was drunk by the English people as Irish and Scotch whisky. He could quite understand a split in the Cabinet taking place on the subject of xylonite, and he hoped the difference would increase until something was done to help the home manufacturers. He begged to move the rejection of the clause.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out Clause 2."—(*Major Jameson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4, and 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 28, to leave out from the first word 'company' to end of clause."—(*Mr. Herbert Robertson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8 agreed to.

Clause 9.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out Clause 9."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 17 agreed to.

Clause 18.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) asked questions regarding the regulations concerning the National Debt and Savings Banks.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham) said these regulations were of a technical character, but he would consider them.

Clause 18 agreed to.

Clause 19.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 35. after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'shall come into operation on the first day of September nineteen hundred and three and.'"—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Schedules agreed to.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [LORDS].

Order for consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD (HILLDROP ROAD SITE) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS (FUNDS) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE ACT (1882) AMENDMENT BILL [LORDS].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

POOR PRISONERS' DEFENCE BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.

Order for Consideration of Lords Amendments read.

Motion made, and question proposed, "That the Lords Amendments be now considered."—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) said the Bill as it stood was almost an absurdity. As the Bill had come down from the Lords, it was absolutely unworkable, for it could not become operative until another Bill had been passed.

***MR. SPEAKER** said the course taken by the noble Lord was very unusual.

LORD HUGH CECIL said he was in fact moving the rejection of the Bill, which ought to be postponed until another session. It was made to depend upon the Crown whether it would work, and the Crown could not be satisfied that it would work unless another Bill was passed. This Bill might be hung up, in a condition of suspended animation, because the Crown was not satisfied that it would work. There ought not to be any attempt to prejudge the action of Parliament in a future session, when the matter would have to be dealt with in a proper way on the initiative of the Ministry, and with a proper provision out of public funds. He hoped the House would accept his Motion to postpone the consideration of the Lords Amendments for three months.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'this day three months.'"—(*Lord Hugh Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

***SIR ALBERT ROLLIT** contended that the Bill was perfectly workable, under the existing County Court Statutes, and that the Questions brought forward by the noble Lord had all been argued on the previous stages of the Bill. The promoters of the Bill did not think the Lords Amendments were necessary, but the Lord Chancellor had expressed a desire to improve the Bill, and therefore they were ready to accept them in deference to and out of respect for the opinions of His Lordship.

MR. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock) said he had been urged by his constituents to support the Bill as rendering it easier for a man of small means to obtain justice.

LORD HUGH CECIL asked for an explanation of its meaning. As far as he could see, the King might be satisfied in one year and not in another, and the Bill might be put into force and taken back again.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said the noble Lord was under some misapprehension. The clause merely provided that a cause might be transferred from one Court to another for the purposes of trial. It did not interfere at all with the jurisdiction of each Court; that would be full, complete, and permanent under the Bill. But the Lords had inserted an Amendment that before that transfer took place His Majesty should be satisfied that the Court to which the transfer was to be made was able to perform the duty without being overcrowded with work. The clause was subsidiary; it only touched transfers, and it did not deal with the primary jurisdiction conferred by the Bill. On this, as on all other points he had criticised, the noble Lord was entirely misinformed and in error, *e.g.*, the jury question and also the remuneration of registrars.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment to the Amendment—

"In page 2, to leave out Sub-section 2."

Agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, to leave out Sub-section 2, and insert clause: 'A.—(1) Where two or more districts are consolidated, notwithstanding anything in Section 45 of the County Courts Act, 1888, contained, the Lord Chancellor, with the consent of the Treasury, may make such provision for the duties of the registrar and otherwise as he may think fit.'"

The next Amendment read a second time.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said they were now considering the Lords Amendments. He wished to ask why the phrase, "concurrence of the Treasury" should be introduced in this clause. That was not one of the Lords Amendments, and he suggested that it could not be moved now. Unless the Lords Amendment was first agreed to he contended that this Amendment could not be moved.

*MR. SPEAKER: Is it relevant to the Lords Amendments? You can always amend the Lords Amendments by something which is relevant to the subject matter.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he understood that the Lords had no power to deal with what was underlined. They had no power to insert the underlined matter.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham) contended that they had a right to amend the Lords Amendments in the way he had proposed.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the second sub-section is relevant to the first. It is quite common for one House to amend the Amendments of the other House and send the Bill back again.

MR. T. M. HEALY said they had no power to make these Amendments.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is now proposed to amend this Amendment by adding those words.

MR. T. M. HEALY submitted that Sub-section 2 was entirely divorced from Sub-section 1. It was a financial proposition, and the Lords had no power to put in a financial proposal. He thought they must first agree to the Lords Amendment before they could amend it. They had not yet agreed to the Amendment, and the proposal now was that it should be amended first and then agreed to.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think this proposal is quite in order. The Question is "that those words be there added."

MR. T. M. HEALY again respectfully submitted that no such Question could be put. He submitted that the first Question to be put was "that this House do agree with the Lords in the said Amendment." The Question now being put was "that those words be there added." He submitted that they should first agree with the Lords Amendment, and then put the Question that they agree with the Lords Amendment as amended.

*MR. SPEAKER: The Amendment is quite in order. The Question has been already put that the House do agree. When the Amendment has been made the House will be asked to agree with the Lords Amendment as amended.

Question, "That those words be there added," put, and agreed to.

Question, "That the House do agree with the Lords Amendment as amended," put, and agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments agreed to.

LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL [LORDS].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Return ordered, "of all the Draft Provisional Orders under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, which in the session of 1903 have been reported on by the Commissioners; together with the names of the Commissioners; the first and also the last day of the sittings in each group; the number of days on which each body of Commissioners sat; the number of days on which each Commissioner has served; the number of days occupied by each Draft Provisional Order before Commissioners; the Draft Provisional Orders, the Preambles of which were reported to have been proved; and the Draft Provisional Orders, the Preambles of which were reported to have been not proved."—(*The Lord Advocate*).

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty minutes after Twelve o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, 12*th August*, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hastings Harbour Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill. Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to.

Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation Bill. Read 1^{a}; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899) deemed to have been read 2^{a} (*The Lord Balfour*); and reported from the Committee; and to be read 3^{a} to-morrow. (No. 219.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. Report, for the year 1902, on the museums, colleges, and institutions under the administration of the Board of Education.

II. General Reports on higher education, with Appendices, for the year 1902.

III. Lists of secondary schools, science and art schools and classes, and evening schools under the administration of the Board, 1902–1903.

IV. Grants to School Boards—Grants paid to School Boards under Section 97 Elementary Education Act, 1870; School Board accounts; List of loans, 1902–1903.

Butter Regulations: Final Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, to inquire and report upon the desirability of regulations under Section 4 of the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, 1899, for butter; with the Minute appointing the Committee. Minutes of evidence, with a digest of the evidence, appendices and index.

CUSTOMS.

Forty-seventh Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs (for the year ended 31st March, 1903).

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

No. 393. Hong-Kong (Report for 1902). Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

PACIFIC CABLE ACT, 1901 (ACCOUNT 1902-1903).

Account showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of the Pacific Cable Act, 1901 (1 Edw. 7, c. 31), and the money received, expended, and borrowed, and securities created under the said Act, to the 31st March, 1903.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Account, of the receipts and expenditure of the Paymaster-General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the funds of Suitors of the Court, in the year ended 28th February, 1903: Also, account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Return respecting—laid before the House (pursuant to Order of the 12th of June last), and to be printed. (No. 214.)

Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2) Bill.—(*The Lord Kenyon.*) (No. 215.) Public Buildings Expenses Bill.—(*The Lord Windsor.*) (No. 216.) Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.)—*The Lord President, D. Devonshire.*) (No. 217.) Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill.—(*The Lord Chancellor.*) (No. 218.) Brought from the Commons; read 1^{a}; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} to-morrow.

PATENT OFFICE (EXTENSION) BILL.

Committed: The Committee to meet forthwith.

MOTOR-CARS BILL [H.L.].

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): I rise for the purpose of moving that the Amendments made by the House of Commons in regard to this Bill be considered, and next I shall move that they be agreed to. Having regard to the interest which was taken by many Members of this House when the Bill was before your Lordships, I think it would perhaps be convenient that I should briefly state the changes which have been made—or at any rate the main changes—by the House of Commons. As they appear on the Paper, the Amendments seem to bulk very largely, but having watched the progress of the Bill through the House of Commons, and having spent a considerable time in studying the actual Amendments made, I am able to say with confidence that they appear on the Paper much more formidable than they are in fact. I may even go so far as to say that, as the Bill is returned to us, there is only one Amendment of outstanding importance which has been made in the Bill since it left this House a week or two ago, and that Amendment is the insertion of a speed limit of twenty miles an hour in Clause 7. That subject was very fully debated in this House on more than one occasion, and the position I then took up on behalf of the Government, and with which personally I most strongly agreed, was that the imposition of an arbitrary speed limit was a tactical mistake and would not serve the real purpose which its advocates had in view. The real outstanding objection to it—an objection to which I have not seen an answer—is that it obviously must tend to obscure the real importance of the provisions in the first clause of the Bill, which provides for the imposition of serious penalties for the offence, in itself equally serious, of driving recklessly, negligently, or to the danger of the public. I may say now, as I said before, that, taken by itself, a speed limit of twenty miles an hour, or, indeed, of any other number of miles an hour, is not of itself of much importance for the protection of the public. The real protection which this Bill gives to the public, as distinguished from the present state of things, is two-fold. In the first place, the Bill provides, for the first time, an easy and ready means of identifying those who offend against good conduct, and it also puts upon them, when they are convicted before a proper Court, serious and severe penalties. I am still of the same opinion as I was then. I would have preferred that the Bill should become an Act without any arbitrary speed limit, but I know perfectly well, from the state of feeling in the House of Commons, that to press the Bill through without such a limit would have been practically impossible. I think it may even be said that the strength of feeling on this matter in the House of Commons increased after the discussions which took place in this House. Strong arguments were used to the effect that roads were made for the convenience of the general public, and not for any such high rates of speed at all, and I do not think that anything like sufficient weight was given to the consideration that a motor-car in the hands of a driver who at all knows his business is much more under control than many a horsed carriage which goes along our roads at present.

The real cause of the feeling on the subject is this. Beyond all question, there has been repeated over and over again in many parts of the country offences against courtesy, against the unwritten laws of good conduct, and against consideration for the feelings and privileges of other users of the road. That has really been the foundation of the strong feeling which has grown up against this particular description of traffic. I should like, if I may, to turn aside for a moment, and say that I think there is an entirely erroneous impression abroad that these offences are mainly committed by those who use motor-cars for their amusement, and are of the class generally spoken of as gentlemen or gentlefolk. There have undoubtedly been some conspicuous instances in which offences have been committed by persons who, from their social station, might have been expected to know better, and those particular cases get into the newspapers, while scores of other cases in which persons of a different class are concerned, but who are equally guilty, do not get into the newspapers. In this way an entirely erroneous impression has got about that it is only gentlemen or gentlefolk who offend in this matter. A magistrate, who has been a friend of mine for many years, on whose judgment I can rely, and who is a perfectly competent observer and by no means prejudiced either for or against motor traffic, has told me that within the last year he has had to sit on sixty or seventy cases in which offences against the Act were alleged, and he assured me that, having carefully analysed those cases, not more than 10 per cent. or 12 per cent. of the offenders were in a social position which in any way entitled them to the appellation of gentlefolk. On the other hand, I am quite certain that without really good cause, there would not have been all this outcry against this form of traffic.

I am sure your Lordships will bear me out when I say that the British public are not jealous of the amusement of others, they are not anxious to put down sport for the mere pleasure of putting it down; they are glad to see others, to whatever social class they belong, enjoying themselves; they are tolerant within very wide bounds of the amusement of others; and when we are told that in regulating the motor traffic as we are doing, we are the enemies of a growing industry, and that we are destroying the potential prosperity of that industry, I say, without fear of contradiction, that the real enemies of the industry are those who have misused the power which this new invention has given them. I know that those who are in favour of the motor industry are hostile to the insertion of this speed limit, but I think I may say that the House of Commons has held the balance very fairly. If it has put in this Amendment which is distasteful to the advocates of the motor industry, the other Amendments which have been made have. almost without exception, been in favour of, or are likely to be satisfactory to, the drivers of motor-cars.

I will go very briefly over the points on which Amendments have been made, and if I fail to cover the whole ground, I will gladly give any further explanation that I am able. I have mentioned the Amendment imposing a speed limit of twenty miles an hour. There is also a small Amendment of the provision which enables a police constable to apprehend a person whom he sees committing an offence. That power is now limited to cases in which the individual refuses to give his name or address. A provision has been inserted enabling manufacturers of motor-cars and dealers in motor-cars to have a general identification mark which can be used when cars are out on trial and for that purpose only A slight Amendment has been made in the clause which provides for the identification mark. That clause, as it left this House, laid an absolute obligation on the driver of the car, under all circumstances and in all cases, to be sure that the mark was unobscured. That obligation is now mitigated to the extent that he is only bound to take all steps reasonable and practicable to keep the mark unobscured, and he has to prove that he has done so. The onus of proof lies upon him to prove that he has done all that he could to keep the mark unobscured. I have already referred to the speed limit. In all cases of penalties for offences which consist merely of exceeding the speed limit, the prosecution is safeguarded in various ways. A person cannot be convicted for exceeding the limit of twenty miles an hour upon the evidence of one witness only; two witnesses are required, and notice of all intended prosecutions must be given to the motorist either at the time the offence is committed or within a reasonable period, not exceeding twenty-one days, after. Twenty-one days is the maximum, and having regard to all the circumstances I do not think it is an undue length of time, because the men who desire to initiate a prosecution must first make sure of the county in which the motor-car is registered, then ascertain the name of the owner of the car or the offender, and finally communicate with the offender. Twenty-one days is the maximum period, and it is not supposed to be the ordinary time which will be required. When the Bill left this House a motorist convicted for reckless driving was liable to imprisonment for three months for the first offence, and to six months for the second, or subsequent, offence. In the Bill as amended, he is not liable to imprisonment at all for the first offence, and for the second or subsequent offence he is only liable to imprisonment for three months. The right of appeal has also been considered and extended. A good deal of discussion has raged around the question of whether magistrates in petty sessions were always as careful and impartial as they might be. In all cases when any serious fine is imposed there will now be an appeal. As regards all these Amendments, it is perfectly obvious that the Bill is made much less drastic as regards the driver of the car.

I think I ought, perhaps, to explain some of the other changes also. There is an increase in the penalty in what is known as the "Good Samaritan" clause. If a man offends more than twice against that clause he is now liable to imprisonment. The age limit for the granting of licences has been raised from sixteen to seventeen years, except in the case of a licensed driver of a motor-cycle. A clause has been inserted enabling the Local Government Board to prohibit or restrict the use of motors on certain narrow or dangerous roads. The fee for registration has been increased from 5s. to £1, and the fee for the annual licence from 1s. to 5s. In connection with this, I ought to say that that increase is in place of the idea which was thrown out here, that possibly there should be an increase in the Inland Revenue licence, but, on mature consideration, it has been thought better not to increase the Inland Revenue licence, but to allow the increase of the fees to go to the local authority, in consequence of the extra trouble and difficulty imposed upon them by the administration of this Act. Those, I think, are all the Amendments which I need specially refer to. In sitting down, I ought perhaps to say that the operation of the Bill has been limited to three years. I hope that during that time further experience will lead both parties in this controversy to a better state of feeling. I believe the general public will become more accustomed to seeing these cars upon the roads, and I firmly believe that by means of the identification provisions in this Bill, those who misuse their powers will be punished, and, so to speak, weeded out, and that the class of motorists will not be discredited by the excesses of a minority of their number. If this endeavour to introduce a better state of affairs is successful, a reconsideration of the matter may reasonably be asked for at the close of three years. Having regard to all the circumstances in which we are placed, I sincerely hope your Lordships will be good enough to accept the Amendments

which have been made in the House of Commons, and to agree to the proposals which are now before the House. In the meantime, I beg to move that these Amendments be considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Commons Amendments be now considered."

*EARL SPENCER: Although I do not propose to trouble your Lordships at any length, it would, perhaps, be better that I should say a few words now, rather than later, in the consideration of this matter. I entirely agree with the remarks which have fallen from the noble Lord in charge of the Bill with regard to the changes introduced in another place. I supported him to the best of my ability in the attitude he adopted with regard to the speed limit, and I entirely share his view on that point. I still hold the view that the imposition of a speed limit is improper, that it will be exceedingly difficult to enforce, and may add considerably to the danger which now exists in connection with travelling by motor-cars. I fully admit, however, that the feeling in the country, and in another place, was so very strong on the subject, that unless a speed limit had been introduced there would have been great difficulty in carrying the Bill through. I certainly prefer the Bill in its amended form to no Bill at all; therefore I am quite prepared to support the noble Lord in acquiescing in the changes which have been made.

With regard to the other changes to which the noble Lord has referred, I presume that they will not do very great harm. I confess, however, that I am a little surprised that, where there was such a very strong feeling expressed against motor-cars, the Government should have agreed to modify the penalties to which motorists were rendered liable. At the same time, there is this to be said—that severe penalties do not always have the greatest effect. All I will say in conclusion is that I hope, with the noble Lord who has just spoken, that that class of motorists who have brought such disgrace and dislike upon motor-cars will now realise what a strong feeling has been aroused, and that they will be generous and just to people other than motorists who are using His Majesty's highways. A great deal depends upon them, because I believe that much of the feeling which has been aroused, has been caused by a number of these reckless individuals not considering the responsibilities attaching to them when in charge of motor-cars. I feel sure that at a future day, if this Bill proves ineffective, a much stronger measure will be introduced, and the responsibility for that will rest upon those persons who are so reckless in their use of the roads.

On Question, Motion put, and agreed to.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I believe the usual practice is to move that these Amendments be agreed to. I will make the Motion formally, and if objection is taken to any particular Amendment I will do my best to answer it.

On Question, Commons Amendments agreed to."

RAILWAYS (ELECTRICAL POWER) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; then (Standing Order No. XXXIX having been suspended), Bill read 3a, and passed.

SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN AND WAR CONTRIBUTION BILL.

On Motion to go into Committee.

***EARL SPENCER**: I am afraid I ought to have made the remarks I am about to offer to your Lordships on a previous occasion, but I confess that, with the enormous number of Bills which are being rushed through in the last days of the session, I did not notice yesterday that this Bill was on the Paper for Second Reading. I regret the noble Viscount, who is so great an authority on finance, is not in the House, as I had hoped that he, rather than I, would have brought the matter forward. This Bill is, no doubt, a finance Bill, and we in this House are unable to make any alterations in detail, although we have the power, which we hardly ever exercise, of rejecting the Bill.

This Bill introduces some very large questions of policy seriously affecting both this country and these colonies. It guarantees a loan of £35,000,000, and it is also intimately connected with another loan of £30,000,000 which is to be raised in the Colonies. I am not going at any length into these matters, but I am not quite clear—though possibly this is a point rather for another place than here—as to how the security is obtained for the repayment of these loans. I understand that it was stated elsewhere, that the £30,000,000 was to be repaid to this country as part of the expenses of the war, and was to be a permanent unremunerative debt of the Colonies. I believe that loan was underwritten to the extent of £10,000,000 by a large body of financiers in South Africa, but I do not see in the Bill any provision for carrying out that arrangement, or any security for it being done. No doubt the Colonial Secretary in his visit to South Africa made arrangements with regard to this, and I do not for a moment say that the arrangements will not be carried out. At the same time, it is a very important matter. It is possible that that £10,000,000 will be all that we shall receive of the £30,000,000, and it seems to be a strong order that there should be nothing in the Bill to show how that £10,000,000 is to be paid.

What are we doing? We are practically conniving at, or approving, of an enormous debt being left on the Transvaal. I believe I am right in saying that this transaction refers only to the Transvaal, and that a separate arrangement has been made with regard to the Orange River Colony. When we come to consider the probable annual income of the Transvaal in relation to this enormous loan, we see at once what a heavy debt we are placing, or approving of being placed, on the colony. Various estimates have been made as to the future revenues of the Transvaal. Taking all the railroads, which are to be purchased out of this loan, the revenues come to something like £7,000,000 a year; not counting the railroads, I believe the revenues amount to £4,000,000 or £4,500,000. If those amounts represent the revenues of the country, this is a very heavy debt for them to start with.

Mixed up in this Bill there are some very important matters indeed. The way in which the £35,000,000 are to be expended is set out. A part of the expenditure is to be unremunerative. There are such items as the large deficit of the Transvaal for 1901–2, the former debt of the South African Republic, compensation to the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, to loyalists in Cape Colony and Natal. Those items account for £16,000,000. Then there is £3,000,000 advanced by way of loan for repatriation and compensation in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. All these items will not be reproductive. There are other items which will be reproductive, and as to those I am not quite clear. £14,000,000 is put down for the acquisition of existing railroads. Does that include the Netherlands Railway? A few years ago the revenue from the railways was a very small sum. In the time of Mr. Kruger it amounted to only £300,000 or £400,000 a year, but a much larger sum is now estimated to be received. It is estimated that when the railroads are acquired a revenue of something like £2,500,000 will be derived. I have seen it placed even so high as £4,000,000, which I suppose would include the revenue from the Netherlands Railway. Perhaps the noble Earl will explain whether this £14,000,000 for the acquisition of railways includes the Netherlands Railway. Next we come to £5,000,000 for new railways. In view of the enormous size of the country, £5,000,000 will go a very small way in extending the railways in the two colonies. I do not for a moment say that railways are not necessary for the development of the country. On the contrary, I should think that the construction of railways is one of the surest methods of improving the commerce and trade of the areas in question, but £5,000,000 is a very small sum for the work.

Then there is the important question of land settlement. On more than one occasion we have had conversation or discussion in this House on that subject. It is an extremely important matter. I have sometimes thought that the statements which have been made here in the direction of encouraging Scotch or English farmers to go out and settle in South Africa hardly constituted wise or safe advice. I have seen and heard many accounts from persons who have been out there, and I doubt extremely whether the farmers of this country would find it a profitable undertaking to settle in the Transvaal. I incline to the view that we are holding out delusive hopes when we encourage them to go out.

Another matter of great importance on which we should like further information is the question of irrigation. No doubt, in a country like South Africa, the scarcity of water is one of the reasons why much of the rich territory there is not cultivated, and a judicious system of irrigation may be a very desirable thing. But we may easily be led into a gigantic expenditure in this direction. I do not know whether that is included in the £3,000,000, or whether that sum refers to other public works. The provision is rather vague on that point.

As far as I can see, all these are matters of considerable interest and importance, not only to this country which is guaranteeing such large sums of money, but also to the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, who also are responsible for this money. Had it been an earlier period of the session I should have endeavoured to go farther into the matter, but I did not like to let the Bill pass without a word, because I think your Lordships' House ought to feel that it has a responsibility with regard to these great matters of policy in different parts of the Empire, and that it ought not to give up its opportunities of criticising the proposals made, or of obtaining information in regard thereto. It was for that reason I have ventured to make these few remarks, and I hope some member of the Government will give an explanation on the points I have raised.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (The Earl of ONSLOW): This Bill deals almost entirely with financial questions, and I confess I was not prepared for the noble Earl raising a lengthened discussion upon it.

*EARL SPENCER: I do not know whether I owe the noble Earl an apology for not giving him notice of my intention to speak on the subject, but I thought it was rather a matter of course that somebody would desire to speak on so important a matter.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I was not suggesting that the noble Earl should apologise to the Government; I was really going to apologise to the noble

Earl for the meagreness of the information which I shall be able to give him, at such short notice, in reply to the Questions he has asked. I was not in the House when the noble Earl commenced his remarks, but I understand that he was doubtful as to whether the revenues of the Transvaal would be altogether sufficient for the considerable sum of money to be guaranteed by the Imperial Government. I think the noble Earl knows Lord Milner pretty well; he knows Lord Milner's financial capacity, and he must be aware that in these respects Lord Milner is not a very sanguine man. We had considerable experience of Lord Milner's financial ability in the discharge of somewhat similar duties in Egypt, and when I say that Lord Milner has not a shadow of doubt as to the superabundant revenue of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony over any liability which may be imposed by these loans, I think the noble Earl will be satisfied on that point. Lord Milner is perfectly satisfied that the Transvaal will be more than able to bear this burden, and that it will be a comparatively light one.

Then the noble Earl asked whether the loan to be raised would be sufficient to cover the cost of the Netherlands Railway. That matter has been the subject of negotiation between His Majesty's Government and the representatives of the bond-holders and shareholders in different countries in Europe. His Majesty's Government had never accepted any liability whatever for compensation for taking possession of that railway, but *ex gratia* they have consented to pay off the Debentures and to pay a certain sum of money per share to those who *bonâ fide* held shares in the company before war was declared, and the money necessary for that purpose is included in the £14,000,000 under head (2) "Acquisition of existing railways in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony."

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Can the noble Earl tell us the amount that will be paid for that railway?

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I am not sure that it is yet settled. A definite proposal has been made to the shareholders, but I am not in a position to say whether they have consented to accept it. But whether they have consented or not, they will not get any more. The noble Earl then asked whether any provision has been made for irrigation? Some provision is made for irrigation under the heading "Other public works," but I entirely agree with what I understood the noble Earl to say—viz., that in all probability a considerable sum of money might profitably be spent in the development of irrigation in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. We must, however, proceed by degrees, and Lord Milner thought, and the Government agreed, that it would be desirable to see what would be the result of irrigation on a somewhat small scale, before the finances of the Transvaal were asked to bear any heavy charge for an extensive system of irrigation in the new colonies. But under any circumstances, I can assure your Lordships, those who have gone very carefully into these questions, putting great faith in Lord Milner's capacity to estimate expenditure and revenue, have satisfied themselves that the liability this country is asked to accept under the Bill is not a liability that it will ever be likely to be called upon to discharge.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 3^{a}, and passed.

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 3^{a}, and passed.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 3^{a}, and passed.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order).

[The Earl of MORLEY in the Chair.]

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said he ought, perhaps, to explain why so many Amendments appeared on the Paper, although he had stated yesterday this was an agreed Bill. The matter had been the subject of prolonged and intricate negotiations between officials in the Scotch Office and the officials and representatives of the Royal Burghs, other Government Departments, and certain private interests. The Bill went through Grand Committee in the House of Commons, and was reported therefrom on 15th July. All the Amendments on the Paper were either drafting Amendments or matters of agreement, and which would have been inserted in the House of Commons had it been possible to get the Bill on. It was not then a Government Bill, but it had since gone through the process known as "starring"; that was, being an agreed Bill, it had been taken up by the Government in order that much valuable time should not be lost. Before it became a Government measure, however, one Member was able to stop all further progress with it, and from 15th July to 7th August nothing was done, simply because objection was taken to the Bill coming on. But during all that time not the slightest opposition had developed to the Bill itself. He thought these facts were very eloquent of the great difficulty of getting even agreed Bills through Parliament. He would say nothing farther at this point, but would explain any Amendments of substance as they arose.

Clauses 1, 2, and 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 8 agreed to.

Clause 9.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 16 agreed to.

Clause 17.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said the next Amendment replaced a provision more stringent in its nature which was struck out in Committee. The clause previously gave the town council power to prohibit the carriage-ways mentioned in the section, whereas the Amendment empowered the town council to oblige the owners to make and keep them in repair. He begged to moved.

Amendment moved—

"In page 7, line 25, after Sub-section 2, to insert as a new sub-section the words 'In cases where it is desired to take carriages across a footway maintainable by the town council into the premises of any abutting owner, the town council may require the formation and maintenance by such owner of a crossing of the description above specified, or may require such owner to maintain the portion of the footway used by such carriages to their satisfaction.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 17, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 18 and 19 agreed to.

Clause 20.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 36, agreed to.

Clause 37.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 37, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 38 and 39 agreed to.

Clause 40.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said the next Amendment was for the purpose of exempting low advertisements, not exceeding twelve feet in height, from the stringent regulations imposed on advertisements of greater height.

Amendment moved—

"In page 14, line 9, to leave out from the word 'externally' to the word 'the' in line 11."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 40, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 41 to 43 agreed to.

Clause 44.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 44, as amended, agreed to,

Clauses 45 and 46 agreed to.

Clause 47.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 47, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 48 agreed to.

Clause 49.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 49, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 50 agreed to.

Clause 51.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said the Amendment was to extend the provisions relating to betting in public places or any common stair. The Amendment was found to be necessary, and it was in accordance with the report of the House of Lords Committee.

Amendment moved—

"In page 19, line 41, after the word 'constable' to insert the words 'in this section the expression "street" includes any common stair.' "—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 51, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 52 to 54 agreed to.

Clause 55.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said the next Amendment on the Paper was proposed in pursuance of an agreement with the Leith Harbour Board. The Leith town council tried to put certain costs upon the Harbour Board which that body thought it ought not to bear. This Amendment would exempt the dock from a certain public health rate, which those who had considered the matter thought it should not bear.

Amendment moved—

"In page 21, line 16, after the word 'determine' to insert the words 'Provided that any ratepayer who is entitled to an exemption from any assessment leviable by the town council may appeal to the Secretary for Scotland against any such determination, and his decision shall be final.' Provided further—

"'(1.) That any such appeal shall be made within fourteen days from the publication or advertisement in manner provided by Section 340 of the principal Act, or otherwise, of the assessment appealed against; and

"'(2.) That in the event of any such appeal being sustained in whole or in part, and any such assessment being quashed or varied, it shall be competent to the town council, notwithstanding anything in the principal Act or any other Act contained, to forthwith rectify and re-adjust in accordance with the decision of the Secretary of Scotland, the assessment so quashed or varied.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 55, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 56 and 57 agreed to.

Clause 58.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 58, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 59.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 59, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 60.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 60, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 61.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 61, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 61 to 63 agreed to.

Clause 64.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 64, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 65 to 68 agreed to.

Clause 69.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, in pursuance of a pledge given in the other House, moved to omit Clause 69.

The clause enabled the town council to put upon the occupiers the expense of clearing away snow. Under the existing law the town council had to carry out this duty, and it was proposed to leave the law as it stood.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 69."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 70 to 81 agreed to.

Clause 82.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 82, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 83 to 86 agreed to.

Clause 87.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 87, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 88.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 88, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 89 to 93 agreed to.

Clause 94.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 94, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 95 agreed to.

Clause 96.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 96, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 97.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said the Amendment on the Paper was for the purpose of facilitating adjustments between counties and burghs.

Amendment moved—

"In page 45, line 15, to leave out from the word 'burgh' to end of clause, and insert the words 'Section 50 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, relating to the adjustment of property and liabilities consequential on an alteration of boundaries, shall apply as if in lieu of that Act, and the Boundary Commissioners, the Burgh Police Acts, and the sheriff (not being a sheriff's substitute) were respectively mentioned therein; provided that nothing herein contained shall require the sheriff to entertain any application made after the expiry of one year from the date when such formation or extension takes effect.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN thought the Amendment would prove effectual in preventing many of the vexatious proceedings, both in Parliament and before the sheriffs to which they had been accustomed. He supposed there was a power by which the county or the burgh might assess itself for any sum required for the purpose of carrying out the agreements.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH could not give an answer off hand, but he thought it must be so.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 97, as amended, agreed to.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH moved to insert after Clause 97 a new clause, which, he said, had been unanimously asked for by the County Councils Association of Scotland. Unless the clause was inserted, it was believed that the regulations of the institutions referred to, inside the burgh, would have the effect simply of drawing them outside the line between the burgh and county. It was undesirable that kind of limit should exist, and, therefore, he moved to insert the new clause standing on the Paper.

Amendment moved—

"After clause 97, to insert as a new clause the words 'A County Council may, at a meeting called after due notice, by resolution adopt the sections of this Act whereof the marginal notes are respectively "Manufacture and sale of ice cream" and "Ice cream shops, etc., to be registered," or either of such sections, and after a date to be specified in the resolution, the adopted section or sections shall have effect throughout the county, with the substitution of "county" for "burgh," of "County Council" for "town council," and of The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, and Section 57 thereof for the principal Act, and Section 316 thereof.

In this section the expression "county" shall mean a county excluding any burgh or police burgh situate therein.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 98.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said the new sub-section of which he had given notice was also in pursuance of a pledge given to the Leith Harbour Board. It was an agreed clause.

Amendment moved—

"In page 46, line 43, after the word 'trustees' to insert as a new sub-section: 'Nothing in this Act contained shall affect or prejudice the provisions of any Act relating to the Harbour and Docks of Leith, Aberdeen, Dundee, or Greenock.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 98, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 99 to 100 agreed to.

Clause 101.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said this clause was unnecessary. It was inserted in both the present Bill and the Town Councils (Scotland) Bill, which would be considered later in the afternoon; it was not required in both Bills, and it was proposed to omit it from the Burgh Police Bill.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 101."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 102 and 103 agreed to.

Clause 104.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 104, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 105.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 105, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said there was only one Amendment of importance in the Schedule, and that was in connection with slaughter-houses. An Amendment had been inserted in the other House, the effect of which was to allow slaughter-houses to be erected close up to the boundary of the burgh. It was thought to be fair that, as slaughter-houses in burghs were under public control and regulation, private enterprise should not be allowed to undersell them just outside the burgh, and that if there were to be other slaughter-houses, as he thought there ought to be, they should be under the regulation of a public authority—either the Burgh Council or the County Council. That was the effect of the Amendment, and he thought he might say the proposal was agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 63, column 2, after line 10, to insert at end of section the words 'or is provided by a local authority other than a town council, and in such last-mentioned case notice of the proposal to provide a slaughter-house shall be given by such local authority to the town council of the burgh, and the town council may, within one month after receipt of such notice, appeal to the Local Government Board for Scotland against such proposal, and the decision of the Board shall be final.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Moved, to leave out pages 64, 65, and 66.—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Amendments reported. Bill read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of MORLEY in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 to 6 agreed to.

Clause 7.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said he was obliged, with great regret, to ask the House to strike out this clause. The point was that at present there was one register for Parliamentary voters, and the municipal and County Council registers were practically the same. The municipal elections were held in November upon the new register, which cáme into force on 1st November, but the nominations had to take place in October on the old register. Candidates were thus nominated on one register and elected on another. That arrangement had caused a certain amount of inconvenience, and the object of the clause was to do away with the difficulty by bringing the new register into force before 20th October, the date of the nominations. He was sorry to say that had been found to be impossible, and that reform could not be effected. He had, therefore, with reluctance, to move the omission of the clause.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 7."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that in two or three places there occurred a word to which he had before objected—namely, the word "retiral." He moved to substitute the word "retirement."

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 33, to leave out the word 'retiral' and insert the word 'retirement.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH hoped the noble Lord would not press the Amendment, as the Bill was to amend another Act in which the word "retiral" appeared, and he would not like to make that change in the present Bill.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that under the circumstances he would not press the Amendment to a Division. He would only say that if this word had been used in Scotch Acts it must have been employed by some of the less cultivated of the earliest Scotch kings.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived: then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Amendments reported; Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

Read 2^a (according to order): Committee negatived: then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 3^a, and passed.

SHEEP SCAB BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Readng, read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: In moving that this Bill be read a second time this day three months, I have to say that there has been a somewhat serious misunderstanding between the agriculturists of this country and the Board of Agriculture; but I hope I may be allowed at the outset to say that I do not in any way wish to impute anything approaching a breach of faith to my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture. Everyone who knows my noble friend knows that he is incapable of committing a breach of faith, and I should be the very last person in this House to wish even to hint at such a thing. But I do think that probably the fact that he was not at the Board of Agriculture when this Bill was brought forward, and was not personally acquainted with the negotiations which took place at that time, has led him into some error with regard to what then passed and was understood to be the course subsequently to be pursued in regard to this measure.

This Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on 24th March, read a second time on 31st March, and sent to the Standing Committee on Trade the same day. The moment the Bill was introduced there was a very strong feeling against it on the part of large sheep farmers, at any rate in the North of

England, and I know the feeling existed in other parts of the country. The next thing that happened was that the northern branch of the Land Agents Society—a very important society of land agents, embracing most of the leading land agents in England—the northern branch covering Northumberland, Durham, and Yorkshire—passed a resolution against the measure. That Resolution was forwarded to the Board of Agriculture. The same thing was done in divers parts of the country; I cannot say how many districts took that course, but I know that the Oswestry Town Council petitioned against the Bill, and that the Cheshire Chamber of Agriculture passed a resolution against it. Then there was an interview between many of those interested in the question, and the late President of the Board of Agriculture, who was also to have met the northern agriculturists at Newcastle towards the end of April, but unfortunately his sad illness prevented him going. Major Craigie took his place, and there was a large and important gathering. I may mention that those who appeared on that occasion included such men as Sir Jacob Wilson, who is known to many Members of this House; Mr. Stevenson, one of the leading veterinary surgeons in the North of England; and Sir Henry Scott, who was selected by the Board of Agriculture, as a typical sheep farmer, to be placed upon the Committee appointed by the Board to consider the question of the dipping of sheep. The result of all these negotiations was that it was understood, at any rate by those who went to the Board of Agriculture, that this Bill was practically dead, and that an inquiry would be held into the question of sheep dips, as it appeared that nobody knew what was the best dip to be used.

Lest it should be said that that Committee to which I referred was appointed to consider only the particular kind of dip to be used, I may remind your Lordships that the reference to the Committee also included—

> "The times and intervals at which sheep should be treated or dressed, regard being had to the life history and characteristics of sheep scab and other parasites, and to the practical conditions under which sheep farming is carried on in various parts of the United Kingdom."

It was clearly understood by these gentlemen that that meant that a considerable portion of the matters which are included in this Bill would be considered by the Committee, and that any legislation which took place would be based upon the Report of that Committee. The Committee has not yet reported, and there is not much chance of its reporting for some months to come. What corroborates my statement that the objectors to the measure were justified in considering that the Bill was dead is the fact that from 31st March down to 7th August nobody ever heard of the Bill at all. I suppose the Standing Committee on Trade heard of it, but nobody outside that Committee were aware of its continued existence. On 7th August, to the astonishment of every one, it was brought up in the House of Commons to be considered as amended. I at once received representations from the gentlemen who had objected to the Bill before calling attention to the matter. I naturally replied that it was no use my doing anything unless the objectors bestirred themselves and represented to the Board of Agriculture their view of the situation. Your Lordships are aware how very difficult it is to move people in the country, especially agriculturists, but notwithstanding that, I think I am right in saying that during the last week a considerable number of letters, protesting against this measure being proceeded with in its present form, have been received by the Board of Agriculture. I think it is a somewhat strong proceeding to leave a measure untouched from 31st March to 7th August, and then to carry it through its stages in the House of Commons and bring it up to this House on 12th August and, as I suppose is the intention, to take all its stages in one day.

It is true that the Bill comes before your Lordships as amended, but there is only one Amendment of any importance, and that, I admit, is a very valuable one. In the original Bill it was proposed that public dipping places should be established. Everybody who knows anything about sheep scab knows perfectly well that you can have no better plan for spreading the disease than that of public dipping places to which all sheep must go. This evil has been avoided by the Amendment, but that is the only Amendment of any importance which has been made in the Bill. In all other respects the Bill is exactly the same measure as was so strongly objected to, and which it was supposed had been dropped. The representations to the Board of Agriculture have come from all parts of the country. I cannot state them all, but I know that they have come from Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, Wiltshire, Yorkshire, Shropshire, and Northumberland; they have come from landowners, farmers, land agents, and veterinary surgeons. In fact, there have been protests against the Bill from all sides, and I should like to know—as doubtless there are some parts of the country which are anxious for the Bill—how many representations have been made in its favour. I will read a short extract from a letter which I received from Sir Henry Scott who, as I have said, was appointed upon the Sheep Dipping Committee by the Board of Agriculture. He writes—

> "Farmers generally are much against the Bill. The feeling in the North of England was expressed strongly by the farmers who met Major Craigie in conference at Newcastle. I have never seen so numerous or influential a meeting of farmers. I believe most farmers were of the opinion that the Bill would never be brought forward."

I think, therefore, I am justified in saying that it was understood that the Bill would be dropped. I had better read another sentence from this letter. Sir Henry Scott says—

> "I have a good excuse for having a decided opinion on such matters. Probably there is no man living who has had a more extended experience than I have in the counties of Sutherland, Ross-shire, Inverness-shire, Argyllshire, and Northumberland, in hill land, pasture land, and arable land."

Under these circumstances I ask, is it so very necessary to pass this Bill? If there is such a very strong feeling against it, is it necessary to force it through this session against the desire of those who are interested that it should be dropped, and who have not carried on the agitation against it, which no doubt they would have done, if they had had any idea that it was to be proceeded with? There is another reason why the Bill should not be carried farther. One of the provisions is that there should be an effective dipping of sheep. It is admitted, I believe, that nobody has ye made up his mind as to what an effective dip is. Your Lordships are aware that sheep dipping may be a very dangerous operation and one which may be conducted in a manner which will do great harm to sheep and to the farmers. I was told the other day by a leading agriculturist that there was only one dip in the world really worth anything. I do not know how that may be, but it does seem to me to be a little thing to ask that, if that is really the case, this Committee which the Board of Agriculture have themselves appointed, should report before you pass a Bill requiring effective dipping, which you are not at present in a position to define. That is an important matter, but it is not the real crux of the Bill. What is felt very strongly by agriculturists is that if you want to put a stop to sheep scab you must do it by a compulsory and universal measure. No infectious disease amongst animals, so far as I know, has ever been put a stop to except by universal compulsion. You have stamped out cattle plague, foot-and-mouth disease, and hydrophobia by enactments of universal application, and you have failed to stamp out swine fever because you have not had provisions of general application.

I must remind your Lordships that interference with the business of a farmer, saying he shall not do this or he shall do that, is a great annoyance, and to a certain extent an injury to his trade. Farmers are perfectly willing, nay anxious, to submit themselves to such restrictions, if they are necessary and well adapted to the purpose of putting a stop to infectious disease, but they are not willing to allow a code of rules to be brought in which shall apply to one part of the country and not to another—rules which will render a farmer liable to be infected from districts to which the provisions do not apply, while he himself is restricted in every way in the following of his calling. I want to make it perfectly clear that those for whom I am speaking are most anxious for some legislation on the point. I copied this extract the other day from a letter which appeared

The Duke of Northumberland.

in the Press from a leading sheep-farmer in the North—

> "There is not a single Sheep-breeders' Association in Northumberland that has not over and over again urged on the Board of Agriculture the necessity of making dipping compulsory—the National Sheep-breeders' Association among them. But it is a very different thing to put it into the hands of local authorities to carry it out, and only to have it carried out where these local authorities wish to do so."

I have here a letter from a leading land agent; he is agent to a very large landed property, and he has had much experience in different parts of the country. He writes—

> "I hope I have made it clear that there is a strong feeling in favour of compulsory dipping. The objection to the present Bill is that, after taking the necessary powers, the Board of Agriculture hand them over to the local authorities, who can act only within their own areas. If a man in Scotland has scab in his flock, and sells 500 sheep in, say, five lots, to different purchasers in different parts of the country, one of whom resides in Oxfordshire, the man may report scab, and the Oxfordshire County Council may act promptly, but though it may stamp it out there, it has no machinery to trace where the taint originally came from, nor will it trouble itself about where the other four lots have gone. All it can do is to report to the Board; so that the owner of the original Scotch flock may escape a dipping order altogether, and continue to spread the disease year after year, and the Board can only say that the local authorities have powers if they think fit to use them. The authority and responsibility alike should rest with the central authority, and no other course can stamp out the disease or satisfy agriculturists."

I think I have given sufficient reasons for rejecting a Bill brought in under these circumstances, and, as it appears to me, so far as the agriculturists are concerned, by a misunderstanding. The measure is not calculated to do what agriculturists wish, and, like all legislation of this kind, which simply tinkers with a big and important question, it will cause the maximum amount of annoyance, while doing the minimum amount of good. I cannot myself see why the whole thing should not be deferred to another session. By that time, I presume this Committee will have reported; we shall then be in a better position to consider the whole question; the noble Lord will then be able to hear all there is to be said on the subject, and I sincerely trust we shall have a thoroughly good Bill dealing with what is really a very important matter. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time this day three months.

Amendment moved—

> "To leave out the word 'now' and add at the end of the Motion the words, 'this day three months.'"—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (The Earl of ONSLOW): I am very sorry indeed that the noble Duke should think that there has been any misunderstanding between the officials of the Board of Agriculture and the farmers who are interested in this question. I have looked very closely into the records—which, of course, are kept in the Department—of the interviews between officials of the Board and the parties interested, and into the reports of the conferences which have taken place, especially the one at Newcastle-on-Tyne, to which the noble Duke has referred, but I have utterly failed to find any hint or suggestion that it was not intended to proceed with this Bill. It is quite true, as the noble Duke says, that in another place a considerable time elapsed between the Second Reading of the Bill and its consideration in Grand Committee and in Committee of the Whole House, but your Lordships are aware that there is great pressure on the time of another place, and some Bills have naturally to wait until near the close of the session. But it must have been perfectly well known to all those who represent those parts of the country which the noble Duke says are opposed to the Bill, that the measure was proceeding on its normal course. No representations were made; the Bill was read a second time, I believe, without debate; it was fully considered in Grand Committee; alterations to which the noble Duke has referred were made; and I do not think at any stage of its proceedings there was any suggestion that the Bill would be dropped. If there has been any misunderstanding, I venture to say it has been on the part of the farmers themselves. I think that misunderstanding more particularly relates to the intention and object of this Bill. This is not, as the noble Duke seemed to convey to your Lordships, a Bill for subjecting farmers to great annoyance by Act of Parliament. What the Bill does is to confer on the Board of Agriculture certain powers for making orders for the compulsory dipping of sheep. The Board of Agriculture has been in existence a good many years, and I venture humbly to say that after my short experience it appears to me to command a considerable amount of confidence on the part of the agricultural interest. If the House is of opinion that the Board cannot be safely entrusted with the power of making these orders, that will be a good reason for rejecting the Bill; but if, on the other hand, the Board is regarded—as I venture to think it is—as the friend of the farmers, and not in the least likely to pass any order which would inflict hardship on or work adversely to the sheep-farming interest, I think your Lordships may safely be asked to entrust to the Board the power which it asks. I can assure the noble Duke that in his county—where I think the opposition to this Bill originated, and whence it has spread, I do not know by what means, to the other counties to which he has referred—the Board would put no order into operation under this Bill, should it become an Act, without consulting those who are principally interested in the sheep-farming industry in Northumberland.

The noble Duke asked, How are you to know what is the best dip or what is an efficient dip? He said there was only one such dip known. I am glad the noble Duke did not mention the name of that dip; it would have been too great an advertisement for the individuals who manufacture it. I can assure the noble Duke that it is not the intention of the Board to specify any dip until the Committee to which he has referred has reported. When we get that report we shall know what is the best dip to adopt. But that is no reason for delaying the passage of this Bill. I think the noble Duke may trust the Board to see that only an efficient dip is employed. When the Committee was appointed, Mr. Laurence Hardy, its chairman, undertook the duty of presiding over the proceedings on the distinct understanding that it was not to hinder the passage of this Bill. That assurance was given, and it is because we wish to have this power conferred upon us that we desire to press the measure forward. If the Bill is postponed until next year we shall waste a whole year, whereas, if it is passed now the Committee will report in the course of the winter and we shall be able to bring our order into operation for the time of year when sheep-dipping is best carried out. The noble Duke stated that sheep-dipping could not be carried out at all times of the year, and I quite agree with him. I would remind the noble Duke that there are other counties in England besides those he has referred to. In the counties of Kent and Shropshire there is a great demand for the passing of this measure. I was down at Maidstone only a very few days ago, and it was then strongly pressed upon me by several of the large sheep-farming interests in Kent, that the measure ought to be proceeded with as speedily as possible. The noble Duke seemed to be very much afraid that unless the order were made universal throughout England that there would be a danger of introducing disease from a county which had not put the order into force into a county which had put it in force. But I would point out to the noble Duke that there is ample power taken to prevent such sheep from coming into a county. Any local authority may prevent a diseased animal from coming in, and can appoint inspectors who shall inspect the sheep before it comes into a county.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: How is he to tell that it is diseased?

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I am not an expert in these matters, but I understand that though you cannot tell whether a bovine animal is suffering from foot-and-mouth disease, and whether a pig is suffering from swine fever, because it is always difficult to say whether a disease is latent in any animal, I am told that experienced persons can, by inspecting a sheep, tell whether it has scab or not. I can assure the noble Duke that if such a case arises as he mentions—namely, that there is an infected area from which desease is being disseminated and its situation is known, we shall at once take steps to send an inspector down to discover what that area is, and to inform every County Council of that affected area, when I have no doubt whatever that they would restrict the movement of diseased animals into their own area. I hope the House will not object to the Bill, and I would point out that the objection of the noble Duke to it arises from a misconception of its object. It simply confers powers upon the Board of Agriculture to issue an order for the compulsory dipping of sheep. That power is only to be exercised after very careful consideration, and it can only be done by the local authority, because the local authority alone have the machinery by which the order can be carried into effect, and they alone have the power to raise the necessary funds under the Diseases of Animals Act for carrying it into effect. If you do not trust your County Councils, if you do not trust your Board of Agriculture that is a very good reason for rejecting the Bill. But if you do trust the machinery of a Government Department and the County Councils who are the local authorities elected by the people, I think we may safely entrust to the one the framing of these orders and to the other the duties of inspection.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: May I be allowed to explain one matter. The noble Lord said that he certainly excepted Northumberland. I never asked for Northumberland to be excepted.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I did not say that. I said that no steps would be taken without consulting his Northumberland friends and those interested in sheep-farming in Northumberland.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I should like to say something on this matter. Although I was never connected officially with the Board of Agriculture, I was connected with the Department that carried out, I think exceedingly efficiently, the different matters connected with the diseases of animals and with agriculture before that Board was created—namely, the Privy Council. I have had very considerable experience in the administration of all these Acts, particularly those with regard to pleuro-pneumonia and foot-and-mouth disease, not only as President of the Council, but also as the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland and as Chairman of the Committee in my own county which managed these things. My Lords, what I feel about this matter is that, in the country, farmers are very apt to refuse to accept the experience of people other than themselves. They have the utmost confidence in their own judgment, sometimes very rightly, but when any Board of Agriculture or any scientific body has got up all the facts regarding a particular disease, they absolutely refuse to accept the recommendations made to them. I have had sad trouble about that myself, and more than once, after I had with great difficulty carried a severe measure with regard to the foot-and-mouth disease and pleuro-pneumonia against the feeling of farmers, who expressed their feelings exceedingly strongly, they came to me and told me that I was right and that they were wrong in the matter. We have the very same thing here. I quite admit that the noble Duke named some important agriculturists who are opposed to this measure, but, at the same, time I am quite convinced from what I know that, unless some measure of this sort is carried out, we shall never be able to stamp out this scab disease which causes so very serious a loss to agriculturists in the country. I am glad to hear the noble Duke cheer my remark, but I am afraid we differ as to the means of doing this. My Lords, if I am not wrong, the Bill gives very extensive powers indeed to the Board of Agriculture, for they can, if there should be a serious crisis, impose compulsory dipping all over the country at once.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: That is so.

*EARL SPENCER: I thought I was correct. When the noble Duke was speaking I read the clause carefully and I found that the Board of Agriculture have that power, and they also have the alternative of submitting it to the local authorities. They clearly have the power to do it themselves. From my experience I am convinced that His Majesty's Government are right in assuming that, unless some measure of this sort is carried out, all the attempts to stamp out this disease will fail absolutely. The noble Duke alluded, and very properly, to the great hardships which might be inflicted if the Act were not properly administered. He said that dipping was dangerous both to the animals and to those who dipped them. I am quite certain of this—that I have sufficient confidence in the Board of Agriculture to believe that they will frame regulations to prevent any dangers of that sort, and that the regulations made by them will not enforce dipping at periods of the year when it would be exceedingly dangerous to the sheep if this process were carried out. With regard to the lateness of the time of the session at which this Bill is introduced I am almost ashamed of again stating my feelings as to the House being put into this position of having Bills brought in so very late. But, my Lords, I feel so very strongly the importance of dealing with this matter that I should be exceedingly sorry to see this measure lost when it has got so far, after having passed through that dangerous place the House of Commons, which is very dangerous in these matters. Having run through that fire and having escaped without harm, I should be very sorry to see it destroyed in this House by the fire of the noble Duke and those who support him. I hope His Majesty's Government will be able to carry the Bill through, as I believe it is very much in the interests of the agriculturists in this country who own sheep, although some of them may not think so.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Bill read 2ª.

Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

House in Committee accordingly.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Earl Spencer.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I move Amendments on this clause at page 1, line 16, leave out "that" and insert "the," and after "authority," insert "appointing the inspector." These provide that the inspectors of a local authority shall not be able to act except under the directions of the local authority, and not, as it were, off their own bat.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out the word 'that' and insert the word 'the,' and after he word 'authority' to insert the words 'appointing the inspector.'"—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND moved to insert after Clause 4 a new clause limiting the operation of the Bill to three years. He did not know whether the noble Lord had finally decided to agree to, the Amendment, but he (the Duke of Northumberland) thought it was a reasonable provision, as there was so much objection to the Bill in so many parts of the country. He desired to explain, as he did not wish to be misunderstood, that he agreed with almost everything that had fallen from the lips of the noble Lord, Earl Spencer. He hoped the noble Lord and the House did not understand from anything he had said that his objections to this measure were objections to its stringency. The objection to be raised to it was that it was not compulsory for the whole of the country, so that he wished it to be made even more stringent than it was. He agreed that the Bill was necessary.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 4, to insert as a new clause the words: 'This Act shall continue in force till the 31st day of December 1906, and no longer, unless Parliament shall otherwise determine.'" (*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I am afraid I cannot accept the Amendment. It does not increase the stringency of the Bill, and would very likely considerably upset the arrangements under it, because orders under it might be enforced in some counties and not in others, and if it were found desirable to extend them we should be met with the difficulty that all of a sudden the Act would come to an end at the expiration of three years. If that were to happen I am afraid we should find the country in an almost chaotic state.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Clause 5 and Title agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. Amendments reported. Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments; and passed, and returned to the Commons.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.

Commons Amendment to Lords Amendments considered (on Motion), and agreed to.

PATENT OFFICE (EXTENSION) BILL.

Reported, without Amendment. Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow.

FREIGHT CONTRACTS.

EARL GREY: I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether they can inform the House what is the present practice of the Crown Agents in the placing of freight contracts on cargoes.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (The Duke of MARLBOROUGH): My Lords, I think what the noble Earl wishes to know is whether the Colonial Office will depart from a practice which they have hitherto pursued, or whether they are prepared to submit their freights to public contract. I believe the noble Earl considers that the system adopted by the British South Africa Company secures more favourable rates for freights than those hitherto obtained by the Crown Agents. I am sure he will bear in mind this fact, that a considerable proportion of the consignments which the Crown Agents have to undertake are made up of very small amounts, and they have to do so in response to very urgent appeals, and, in consequence, they cost a certain sum of money. I think it is clear that these shipments made under these conditions must be more costly than in the case where requirements for freights are more regular, and where they can be dealt with sufficiently far in advance as to enable favourable rates to be secured. I can assure the noble Earl that whenever the Crown Agents have been able to foresee shipments of sufficient amounts to render it worth while to place it out in competition, they have invariably succeeded in securing rates which, I believe, compare very favourably with similar transactions by other shipping agencies. With regard to the exceptional conditions which have prevailed recently in the South African shipping market, especially during the last eighteen months, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has decided to test this system of open competition. He has decided to test it in connection with the large shipments that the Crown Agents anticipate that they will have to make to our new colonies in South Africa between the present time and the year 1904. Under his instructions they will accordingly invite open competition tenders in the course of the next few weeks for 100,000 tons to be shipped up to the 31st of December next, with the option of extending the amount to 200,000 tons. It is hoped that the result of this experiment may be to show whether there is any advantage to be gained by open competition in comparison with the practice that has hitherto prevailed. I trust that this answer in connection with this matter will give adequate and sufficient information in a matter which I know the noble Earl considers to be extremely important, and one upon which he holds very strong views.

EARL GREY: My Lords, I understand from the noble Duke that the Colonial Office has not yet invited tenders for freights to South Africa, but that it is their intention to invite tenders for big freight contracts — I understood him to say of 100,000 tons.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: They have not done so up till now.

Earl GREY: I am very glad to hear that it is the intention of the Government to advertise for tenders for their South African cargoes. I only regret that the noble Duke limits the application of the principle of inviting tenders for Government cargoes to large consignments. I am under the impression that since we had a little discussion in this House upon this question earlier in the year, that notices have been posted up in the shipping market asking for tenders for Government cargoes to Colombo, a practice which has not existed for years. I should very much like to know from the noble Duke—and although I have not given notice of the Question, if he has the information in his possession I am sure the House will be glad to know—whether the practice of advertising for tenders for Government cargoes to the Crown colony of Ceylon has been replied to by shipping companies tendering who have never yet been allowed to tender at all. The noble Duke said my interest in——

The Lord CHANCELLOR (The Earl of Halsbury): May I point out to the noble Earl that after he has asked a Question he has no right of reply.

Earl GREY: I bow to your ruling, my Lord. Am I in order in asking the noble Duke another Question without notice?

The Lord CHANCELLOR: Usually notice is given, but it is not usual and not in order after an answer has been given to raise a debate upon it.

Earl GREY: I will obey your ruling. May I give notice of my intention to ask the noble Duke to-morrow if he will give the House a Return of the rates of freight contracts for rails obtained by the British South Africa Company, to which he has referred, and give the points in South Africa for which they are intended. I will move for that Return to-morrow.

PREFERENTIAL AND RETALIATORY DUTIES.

Lord WELBY: I beg to move for a Return relating to tariff regulations, which I believe is unopposed, as follows: Return of preferential and retaliatory duties imposed, raised, reduced, or repealed in the years 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1853, and 1860, stating (1) the rate of duty levied, and (2) the revenue derived from, and the quantities imported of the articles concerned in the three years preceding and in the three years following such change.

The LORD PRESIDENT of the COUNCIL (The Duke of Devonshire): There is no objection, I believe, to this Return.

Lord WELBY: I have had an opportunity of conferring with the Customs upon the Return, and at their suggestion I have made some alterations which I showed to the noble Duke a day or two ago and to which he agreed.

Return ordered to be laid before the House—(*The Lord Welby.*)

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Six o'clock till to-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday 12*th August*, 1903.

The House met at Two of the clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

ULSTER AND CONNAUGHT LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to.

HASTINGS HARBOUR BILL [LORDS].

Ordered, that, in the case of the Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.

Bill, as amended, accordingly considered:

Ordered, that Standing Orders, 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

(King's consent signified), Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL [LORDS].

Ordered, that, in the case of the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 211, 223, 236, 237, and 243 be suspended.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL [LORDS].

Reported, without Amendment; Bill read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

They have agreed to Amendments to South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Liverpool University Bill [Lords]. Bradford Corporation Bill [Lords]. Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [Lords]. Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords]. Salford Corporation Bill [Lords]. Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Bangor Corporation Bill [Lords]. Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [Lords]. Mid-Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. North Western Electricity and Power Gas Bill [Lords]. Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

PETITION.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Tunbridge Wells, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 7th August; *Mr Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 338.]

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (BUTTER REGULATIONS).

Copy presented, of Final Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to inquire into and report upon the desirability of Regulations for Butter, with copy of the Minute appointing the Committee [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (BUTTER REGULATIONS).

Copy presented, of Minutes of Evidence to the Final Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to inquire into and report upon the desirability of Regulations for Butter, with a digest of the evidence, appendices, and index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of (1) Grants paid to School Boards under Section 97 of Elementary Education Act, 1870, (2) School Board Accounts, (3) List of Loans, for 1902-3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Lists of Secondary Schools, Science and Art Schools and Classes, and Evening Schools under the administration of the Board of Education, 1902-3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CUSTOMS.

Copy presented, of Forty-seventh Report of the Commissioners of Customs for the year ended 31st March, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE AND CONSULAR SERVICE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 30th July; *Mr. Cathcart Wason*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 339].

CONDITION OF TRADE AND PEOPLE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 30th June; *Mr. Gibson Bowles*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 340.]

ROYAL COMMISSIONS AND SELECT COMMITTEES (COST).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th May; *Mr. Malcolm*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 341.]

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (CONTRACTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th July; *Sir Howard Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 342.]

PACIFIC CABLE ACT, 1901.

Account presented, showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of The Pacific Cable Act, 1901, and of the money received, expended, and borrowed, and securities created under the said Act to the 31st March, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 343.]

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Account presented, of receipts and expenditure of the Paymaster-General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the funds of suitors of the Court in the year ended 28th February, 1903, and of account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature, with the Report of the Comptrollor and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 344.]

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 393 (Hong-Kong, Annual Report for 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAND MINES (NATIVE MORTALITY).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 7th August; *Mr. Trevelyan*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 345.]

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Account presented, of deposits in Naval Savings Banks, and the payments thereof, and the interest thereon, etc., during the financial year 1901–1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No 346.]

WORKMEN'S TRAINS.

Return ordered, "showing (1) the number of Workmen's Trains running on all Railways within the Metropolitan area; (2) the distance run and the fares charged on each particular train (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 187, of session 1900.")—(*Mr. Lough.*)

CYPRUS.

Return ordered, "(1) of all sums paid in each year, 1900–1901, 1901–2, by direction of His Majesty's Government, out of moneys arising from the revenues of Cyprus, in discharge of the interest upon the Turkish Loan guaranteed by this country under the Statute 18 and 19 Vic., c. 99; and (2) of all sums voted by Parliament during the same period in aid of the Administration of Cyprus; and also of the surplus remaining in each year over and above the payments made out of such revenues on account of the said Turkish Loan and laid aside by way of sinking fund, together with the interest thereon (in continuation of Parliamentary Papers, No. 42, of Session 1899, and No. 4, of Session 1902)."—(*Mr. Pierpoint*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Condemned Rations in South Africa.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, whether, in 1900, there were reports received as to large quantities of meat and vegetable rations having been found bad in South Africa; and, if so whether he can state if these were rations supplied from home or from elsewhere.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The only bad reports on meat and vegetable rations in 1900 affected some 20,000 N.A.O. rations which were supplied from this country. The contractor was permitted to replace the lot condemned. Similar action took place regarding subsequent supplies in 1901. Further consignments afterwards supplied were favourably reported on. Over ten million meat and vegetable rations of various brands were shipped from England to South Africa.

Customs Service—Promotion in the Waterguard Department.

MR. LUKE WHITE (Yorkshire, E.R., Buckrose): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Board of Customs will consider the advisability of employing preventive officers on duties at present performed by examining officers, in order to relieve the stagnation in promotion in the waterguard department.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) It is not contemplated to employ preventive officers, generally, on duties at present performed by examining officers, who belong to a different branch of the outdoor service of the Customs.

Dogs for Vivisection Purposes.

SIR JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware of the source from which the dogs are obtained which are used by vivisectors for experiments; and, if not, will he cause inquiry to be made as to this.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I have no information as to the sources—no doubt many and various—from which dogs are obtained for the purposes of experiments; and I do not think that any good purpose would be served by my attempting to make inquiry on the subject.

Woman Inspector in the Pottery Trade.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he can state what steps have been taken to carry out the promise to consider the appointment of a district woman inspector for the Potteries, which was given by Mr. Roskill on behalf of the Home Office on Wednesday the 1st July, the seventh day of the arbitration on the use of lead, held under the Factory Act, 1891.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) This matter, as the right hon. Baronet is aware, involves questions of considerable difficulty. I cannot do more than promise to take it into very careful consideration after the publication of the award and in connection with any review of the staff of inspectors which may be necessary for the purposes of next year's Estimates. In the meantime arrangements have been made to secure for the Potteries district the largest share of the attention of the women inspectors which is possible without interfering with the efficiency of the staff in its present organisation..

Motor-Car Accidents.

MR. BAILEY (Newington, Walworth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether cases of accidents by motor-car are reported by the police, if so, can he state what number of accidents have occurred to vehicles and what number of persons have been injured during the year 1902; and whether any proceedings have been taken by the police against the drivers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I have no doubt that motor-car accidents are reported by the police to the police authorities of counties and boroughs, but my information in the matter extends only to the Metropolitan Police District in which the Secretary of State is the police authority. In that district 195 accidents were reported during the year 1902, by which one death and personal injury in 194 cases were caused. Accidents are not necessarily due to neglect or other wrongful act; but proceedings are invaribly taken by the police in London when an offence is committed by a motor-car driver within their cognisance.

Schools in Rural Districts.

SIR MARK STEWART (Kirkcudbrightshire): To ask the Lord Advocate if his attention has been called to the expense incurred by shepherds and other persons who reside in parts of the country remote from schools, for the education of their children; and whether the Government will bring in a Bill next session to allow School Boards, showing good cause, to apply for assistance from the Treasury to enable them to board out their children near a school.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The matter referred to is one which has frequently been before the Department, and every effort is made, in specific cases, to bring about a satisfactory arrangement, consistent with the provisions of the Education Acts. The question of extending the powers of School Boards, by enabling them to pay for the board of children, and still more that of making a Treasury grant for the purpose, are very grave, and I am unable at present to commit the Government in the direction suggested.

British Merchants in the French Congo.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the present position of the negotiations with the French Government with respect to the claims of British merchants for restitution of trading rights and compensation for losses sustained through the action of the concessionaire companies in the French Congo; has it been arranged to refer these claims to arbitration; and, if so, when is the arbitration to be held.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The negotiations referred to are still in progress, and it would not be advisable at this stage to make any detailed statement.

Venue of Ulster Winter Assizes.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether the Irish Government will consider the advisability of holding the coming Ulster Winter Assizes in the city of Londonderry now that the city has a venue distinct from that of the county.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The question of the selection of the venue for the holding of winter assizes is under the consideration of the Government.

Charitable Loan Fund Act.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if, next session, he will bring in a Bill to amend the Charitable Loans Fund Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) I much regret that the Bill which I introduced on this subject as an uncontroversial measure had to be withdrawn owing to threatened opposition. I think the entire subject requires to be dealt with in a comprehensive measure, but, of course, it is impossible to give any undertaking as to the legislation of next session.

Assimilation of Boundaries of Parliamentary and Municipal Boroughs.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury E): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will re-introduce at an early date in next session and persevere with the measure for making the Parliamentary Boroughs of the metropolis coterminous with the municipal borough boundaries, in accordance with the desire of the local governing and registration authorities in the Metropolis.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I could not at present promise to introduce this Bill next session. Perhaps my hon. friend will allow me to refer to my replies to Questions on this subject in March and April last.† I could not hold out any expectation that I should propose a Bill dealing with this matter, unless I was satisfied that it would be treated as an unopposed measure.

Accommodation of Bristol Union Infirmaries.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the infirmary accommodation in the Bristol Union, resulting in the occasional crowding of over 750 sick people in wards in two workhouses certified for 450, and the exclusion of cases of a mild lunacy type, which have consequently been treated at a greater cost in the Bristol Lunatic Asylum; and, whether, seeing that the old infirmary wards were condemned by the inspectors in 1898, and that plans for a new infirmary have been prepared, he will say what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) My attention has been called to the need for further accommodation for the indoor poor of the Bristol Union, and I have for some time past been in communication with the guardians on the subject. I have pressed them to submit to me a complete scheme for the provision of the necessary accommodation, and I am now expecting to hear from them on the subject.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxviii., 1545.

Corporal Punishment for a Girl in Chatham Poor Law Schools.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the chastisement of a girl by a Poor Law schoolmistress at Chatham; whether, seeing that the corporal punishment of female children in Poor Law schools is forbidden by the regulations of the Local Government Board, he will state what steps the Local Government Board will take in this case to vindicate the authority of their regulations.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long*) A newspaper report has been forwarded to me with respect to this matter, and I am making inquiry with regard to it.

Average Age at Marriage.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state the mean age at marriage of men and women respectively married in the quinquennial periods 1851–5, 1856–60, 1861–5, 1866–70, 1871–5, 1876–80, 1881–5, 1886–90, 1891–5, 1896–1900.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The mean ages of marriage were not calculated in the earlier periods referred to. The mean ages in the groups of years from 1867, however, are:—1867–1870 (four years) men, 28·0; women, 25·7. 1871–1875, men, 27·9; women, 25·7. 1876–1880, men, 27·9; women, 25·7. 1881–1885, men, 28·0; women, 25·7. 1886–1890, men, 28·3; women, 26·0. 1891–1895, men, 28·4; women, 26·2. 1896–1900, men, 28·4; women, 26·2. I understand from the Registrar General that in 1867–1870 more than 30 per cent. of the people married did not state their ages, but that there has been a gradual improvement in the statement of ages, until in 1900 only about 1¼ per cent. did not state their ages. For these and other reasons, however, comparisons between the average ages at marriage in the earlier years with those in the later years cannot be regarded as altogether trustworthy.

British Exports and Imports.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state what was the declared value of British imports, and the value of exports of British produce, in 1873, and the value of those imports and exports, separately from one another, in the years 1883, 1893, and 1902, calculated according to the Board of Trade index number on the basis of 1873 values, and excluding ships from the figures of exports in 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The declared values of the imports into, and of the exports of British produce from, the United Kingdom in 1873, were as follows:—Imports, £371,000,000. Exports of British produce, £255,000,000. Approximate values of total imports and of exports of British produce, exclusive of ships, in the undermentioned years, at 1873 prices, computed according to the Board of Trade index numbers, on the assumption that the average value of the articles of our import and export trade have followed the course of general prices:—Imports, 1883, £526,000,000; 1893, £611,000.000; 1902, £797,000.000. Exports of British produce, 1883, £295,000,000; 1893, £329,000,000; 1902, £418,000,000. As I stated in reply to the hon. Member for Renfrewshire West,† the level of prices in 1873 was higher than in any other year since 1826.

Paris "Tube" Accident.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will give directions that the Department shall be represented by an expert at any inquiry which may be held by the French authorities on the accident on the underground railway at Paris on Monday last, in order that proper precautions may be recommended by the Board of Trade to similar undertakings in this country with a view to obviate a similar disaster in this country.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The Board of Trade will take steps to obtain a report of the proceedings at any inquiry which may be held. The expert officers of the Department have made themselves acquainted with the construction and working of the French railway.

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† See page 676.

Board of Education—Consultative and Registration Committees.

MR. GEORGE BROWN (Edinburgh, Central): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he will consider the advisability of strengthening the Consultative and Registration Committees by the addition of specialists in infant school teaching.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) In the opinion of the Board of Education, the Consultative Committee and the Registration Council are sufficiently representative of the various kinds of education, and there is no present intention of adding members to either of these bodies.

Lincoln Education Committee—Appointment of a Solicitor.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the appointment by the education committee of the city of Lincoln of a solicitor to carry out its legal work, instead of reporting the work required to the city council and requesting the council to have the work undertaken, will receive the sanction of the Board of Education.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) If the education committee of the city of Lincoln are employing a paid official without authority from the city council, the case is one which may call for the consideration of the city council, or of the auditor of the Local Government Board. It is not a matter in which the Board of Education would take action.

Postal Facilities at Buttersbridge, County Cavan.

MR. MCGOVERN (Cavan, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General is he aware that inconvenience is caused to the inhabitants of Buttersbridge, and that locality, in the county of Cavan, owing to the want of a post office, money order office, or telegraph office; and, seeing that the telegraph wires come to within about 200 perches of the village, will he get telegraph or telephone connection between it and Cavan, and also establish a money order office, which will be very little expense on the Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I assume that the hon. Member's Question refers to Buttersbridge, at which place there is already a post office, but neither telegraph nor money order business is transacted there. I have offered to provide telegraphic facilities if a guarantee of £19 a year for seven years is given, but I have had no reply to this offer. The maximum liability under such a guarantee would be only £9 10s. The question of establishing a money order office there does not appear to have been raised, but I will have it considered. Probably a guarantee will be required also in that case.

Promotion in the Bristol and Cheltenham Post Offices.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will explain why a sorting clerk and telegraphist at Bristol, who was removed temporarily to Exeter to assist the surveyor's staff, was upon his return to Bristol, placed over the heads of seventy of his senior colleagues. Also to ask the Postmaster-General, whether he will state by what authority the postmaster of Cheltenham states that no appointments as postmen in that town will be given to assistant postmen for some time; and whether any steps can be taken to confer appointments on those assistant postmen at Cheltenham who were passed over some time ago, because they were not eighteen years of age, but who have since become qualified.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I regret to say that I am unable to answer these Questions at such short notice. The Questions only appeared on the Paper to-day, and I have had no time to make inquiry into the circumstances.

Post Office Committee on Wages—Names of Members.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General if he has appointed the Committee on Wages; and, if so, whether he can announce the names of the gentlemen selected.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have not quite completed the composition of the Committee, but I hope to be in a position to announce the names in a few days.

Pensions for Widows of Seamen and Marines killed in Time of Peace.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can announce the final decision arising out of the inquiry concerning the pensions to be paid to widows of seamen and marines who lose their lives in time of peace; and whether this charge will be transferred from the funds of Greenwich Hospital to the Consolidated Fund.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) I may refer the hon. Member to an answer given by the First Lord of the Treasury on 15th June.†

Delay in Appointment of Mr. P. J. Boyle as Light-Keeper.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say why Mr. Patrick James Boyle, of Rutland Island, county Donegal, who passed the necessary examination some 15 months ago, has not yet been appointed to the position of light-keeper, whilst other persons have been appointed whose examination was subsequent to his.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham*): No persons have been examined for this position since the date at which Mr. Boyle was examined.

British Museum Reading-Room and National Library of Ireland—Staff and Number of Readers.

MR. HUGH LAW: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will give the number of readers' attendances for the year 1902–3 (or the last year for which figures are obtainable) at the reading-room of the British Museum and at the National Library of Ireland respectively; and also the number of the library staff in each case.

(*Answered by Mr Wyndham.*) The number of readers' attendances at the reading room of the National Library of Ireland in the year mentioned was 174,796. The library staff consisted of a librarian, two assistant librarians, fourteen attendants, and two cataloguers. Two additional attendants have been employed since the 1st April last. I have no information in respect to the reading-room of the British Museum.

Early Statutes of Ireland—Progress of Printing.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what progress has been made with the printing of the early statutes of Ireland, in what form they are being printed, and how soon the first volume is likely to be published.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The early statutes of Ireland will be published in octavo, as part of the series of Irish Record Office books. About 100 pages are in type, and it is hoped that the first volume will be ready for issue early next year.

Royal Visit to Ireland—Railway Overcrowding and Excursion Facilities on the Lough Swilly and Letterkenny Railway.

MR. M'FADDEN (Donegal, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the attention of the Board of Works has been drawn to the fact that on the occasion of the King's visit to Londonderry on the 28th July last no excursions were issued on the Letterkenny railway; that the Letterkenny and Burtonport lines were denuded of rolling stock to supply the Lough Swilly line, which issued excursion tickets; that compartments made to accommodate eight people carried twenty; and that at Newtoncunningham Station a couple of coal trucks or goods wagons were utilised to carry passengers; and, if so, will inquiry be made by the Board of Works into this and other complaints of the Lough Swilly Company in the management of the Letterkenny Railway.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Company anticipated that the traffic on this date on the Burtonport and Letterkenny lines, at the ordinary fares, would be as much as carriage accommodation could be provided for. It was, therefore, considered inadvisable to issue excursion tickets. The Company deny that the Burtonport line was denuded of rolling stock to supply their own system. They state that there were seven carriages and two vans in use on the Burtonport line, which they say were quite sufficient for the traffic. As regards the use of wagons for passengers on the date in question, the Company state it is not practicable to estimate correctly the number of people likely to travel by the Letterkenny railway by the morning train, that on arrival at Newtowncunningham the train was quite full, and that, consequently, about fifteen passengers elected to travel in two flat wagons. These passengers, however, were changed into carriages at Tooban Junction, six miles further on. The Board of Works have the question of the more efficient working of the Burtonport and Carndonagh Railways under consideration, and representations have been addressed to the Lough Swilly Railway Company on the subject.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 954.

Excursion Parties on the Lough Swilly Railway.

MR. MCFADDEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he is aware that the Lough Swilly Railway Company, on the occasion of the holding of an agricultural and industrial show at Letterkenny on the 16th July last, refused to carry or give travelling facilities to excursionists from Culdaff and Carndonagh desirous of visiting the show; and, if so, whether the Board of Works intend to take any action in reference to this refusal, or see that the loss occasioned by it to the receipts from the Letterkenny Railway is made good to the ratepayers in the guaranteeing area.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Company did not refuse to carry this excursion party. The gentleman acting for the party did not accept the offer made by the Company for three weeks, and in the interval another large party made arrangements for the same date, which were agreed to by the Company. The former party has since been carried from Corndonagh to Derry without complaint.

Heating of Irish National Schools.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether anything will be done for the heating of Irish national schools during the coming winter.

(*Answered by Mr Wyndham.*) The Estimates contain no provision for this service, except in the case of the model schools. The question, however, will receive consideration in connection with the results of the recent inquiry respecting Irish elementary day schools.

Ireland—Non-appointment of Manual Instructresses.

MR. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what amount has been returned to the Treasury on account of the non-appointment of manual instructresses during the last financial year.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) No money has been surrendered to the Treasury on this account.

Harbour Works at Portevelin.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Committee of Inspection of the Congested Districts Board, in July, 1901, recommended that Board to carry out certain harbour works at Portevelin, County Donegal, and that the Board communicated with the War Department with a view to getting their assistance in carrying out the work on account of its proximity to the Leenan Head Battery; and, if so, will he say what has been the result of the communications with the War Department, and whether the Board intend to carry out the work.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The existing pier and the adjoining land are the property of the War Department, and that Department is unable to make any contribution towards the cost of the proposed works. The Congested Districts Board has postponed, for the present, further consideration of the project.

Delay in Erection of Labourers' Cottages in the Cavan Union.

MR. McGOVERN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that the Cavan Rural Districts Council attributes the delay in erecting labourers' cottages in the Cavan Union to the action of the Local Government Board officials; and, if so, can he state what are the documents which the Local Government Board require before an arbitrator can be appointed, and will he see that no arbitrator who has any connection with the landlords of Cavan, or any of the adjoining counties, will get the appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I am not aware that the District Council attributes to the Local Government Board the responsibility for the delay that has taken place in the erection of the cottages. The causes of the delay were indicated in my reply to the hon. Member's previous Question of the 13th July,† and the District Council in December last was informed by the Board of its requirements in respect to the documents essential to the arbitration inquiry. It is the practice of the Board to appoint as arbitrators only such gentlemen as, in the Board's opinion, will discharge their duties in an efficient and impartial manner, and who have no direct or indirect interest in the lands the subject of arbitration.

Working of Tramways (Ireland) Acts.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the advisability of appointing a Viceregal Commission or otherwise inquiring into the working of the Tramways (Ireland) Acts, 1860 to 1900, with a view to the codification thereof and the assimilation of the law in Ireland with reference to light railways with what it is in England.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) There does not appear to be any urgent reason for the codification of the Irish Tramways Acts. Each Act has been drawn with a careful regard to those preceding it, and no serious difficulties have been experienced in their interpretation by the Government or, so far as it is aware, by the public interested in the system. The features of the law in Ireland with regard to light railways differ very considerably from those of the law in England—for instance in the matter of free grants by the State—and it would not be practicable to assimilate the law in the two countries. I see no necessity for the appointment of a Commission as suggested.

Medical Attendance on Royal Irish Constabulary—Consulting Physicians.

DR. THOMPSON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if, in view of the fact that Irish Poor Law medical officers have power to call in consultation, in the case of severe illness of a poor person, any physician or surgeon they may desire, he will explain why the same discretion is not permitted to medical attendants of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) No proper analogy can be drawn between the two services. In the case of medical attendants on the Constabulary, the cost, estimated at about £13,000 in the current year's Estimates, is defrayed by the State. It is also to be borne in mind that in Great Britain, in the large majority of local county forces, the police have to provide their own medical attendance, and in no case where such is supplied does it include attendance for the man's wife or family, as in Ireland.

DR. THOMPSON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been directed to a circular issued and signed by the Deputy Inspector-General of Irish Constabulary, to the effect that no extra remuneration to a medical attendant, nor fees to any other doctor called in for consultation, can be granted, and such claims are not to be submitted; and, if so, whether, in the interests of the constables, he will take steps to withdraw the circular.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I have nothing to add to my reply to the similar Question put to me yesterday by the hon. Member†.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxv., 394.

† See page 861.

Grievances of Officers of Irish Poor Law Services.

Dr. THOMPSON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of his public statement that the officers of the Irish Poor Law service have grievances which require to be remedied, he will consider his decision, and either appoint a Royal Commission to consider them, or else enlarge the scope of the Vice-Regal Commission now sitting, so as to allow these matters to be investigated and reported upon.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I have nothing to add to the statements already made by me on these matters. The complaints of the medical officers cannot be advantageously considered until after the Government has had an opportunity of considering the Report of the Vice-Regal Commission.

Increased Rents on Estate of Mr S. E. Shirley in County Monaghan:

Mr. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain the reason the Sub-Commissioners in County Monaghan increased a number of rents on the estate of Mr. S. E. Shirley.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Sub-Commission gave its decisions after hearing the evidence offered in Court by either party and inspecting the holdings in the several cases. In forty-seven of the cases dealt with by the Sub-Commission notices of appeal against the orders of the Court have been lodged.

Irish Medical Association—Doctors and Irish Poor Law Appointments.

Dr. THOMPSON: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he has received any reports showing that the Council of the Irish Medical Association has intimidated its members against doctors outside the association seeking Irish Poor Law medical appointments; and, if so, whether he will lay them upon the Table

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Reports or regulations purporting to have been issued by the various local branches of the Irish Medical Association contain the following, amongst other, paragraphs: "That henceforth no medical man shall apply for, or accept, any dispensary appointment at a smaller remuneration than £200 per annum, or workhouse appointment under £120 per annum, unless both be held conjointly, when the minimum salary shall be £300 per annum. That, in the event of any position being taken in violation and contrary to the foregoing regulations, no member of our association shall recognise, do duty for, or meet in consultation, the offender. Such an offence on the part of a member of our association shall entail instant and ignominious expulsion." It is not proposed to lay these reports, which have been circulated throughout Ireland, upon the Table of the House.

Valuation of County Wicklow.

Mr. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to a letter from the Secretary of the Wicklow County Council, with copies of reports made by that officer to the County Council, relative to the failure of the Valuation Office to furnish the totals of the valuation of the rural and urban districts in the county before the 1st February in each year, and pointing out that the Order in Council requires the County Council to make its estimate for the ensuing year in the month of February, although the revised valuations are not furnished until the 1st March; and, if so, whether he will take steps to ensure that the totals of the valuation will, in future, be supplied to the County Secretary not later than the 1st February, so as to enable him to base his estimate on reliable figures.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The revised valuation lists for the rural districts are issued to the County Council on the 1st February. The question of the practicability of issuing the lists for the urban districts by the same date is, as I have stated to-day in answer to the

Question of the hon. Member for Cork†, at present engaging the consideration of the Government.

Distribution of War Medals to Army Medical Corps.

Colonel LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that, in the Eastern District, or Command, of the twenty warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps entitled to both war medals for South Africa, some with as many as six clasps, only two have received both decorations, and of the remaining eighteen only two have received the Queen's medal; and, if so, will he state how many of each of these medals have been awarded to the Royal Army Medical Corps in other districts or commands.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The information required would entail a minute examination of the medal rolls by the staff concerned, and I do not think my hon. and gallant friend would willingly throw this unnecessary labour upon the Department. The distribution of medals is expedited by every means in our power, and any individual case brought to notice will be inquired into.

Fusilier Militia Regiments and Borrowed Busbies.

Dr. THOMPSON: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will prohibit for the future the practice of allowing Fusilier Militia Regiments to appear on parade in the cast-off busbies of Line Fusilier Regiments.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I am not aware of any such practice, but recently, on the occasion of His Majesty's visit to Dublin, certain Fusilier caps were lent from Army Stores on the application of the battalions concerned.

Engineer and Executive Officers in the Navy.

Mr. GROVES (Salford, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Committee engaged in preparing the recommendations for assimilating the rank for age of engineer officers with that of executive officers in the Royal Navy has yet issued its report; whether he can state the intention of the Admiralty with regard to the assimilation, and whether a copy of the Report of the Committee will be furnished to Members, or placed upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The question referred to by the hon. Member has been under the consideration of the Board of Admiralty, and has not been dealt with by a Committee. There are, therefore, no Papers to lay on the Table. The decision of the Board will be promulgated to the Fleet in the usual manner when the necessary steps have been taken, but, pending this announcement, I do not think it would be desirable to make what would necessarily be an incomplete statement with regard to the Board's decision.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Vice-Royalty of India.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is in a position to state for what period the extension of Lord Curzon's period of office as Viceroy of India has been arranged.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): The hon. Member is no doubt aware that, although it is usual to relieve the Governor-General at the end of a term of five years, the practice rests upon custom only. Lord Curzon would, in accordance with this custom, be relieved next January, but it has been arranged that his term of office shall be continued beyond that, and that he shall remain in India till May, 1904. Should he be able to continue his work beyond that date the Government will extend his duration of office for another period not exceeding two years, but it is likely that before reentering upon that fresh term of office he may require a rest and holiday in this country.

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† See page 1022.

Ceylon Estate Schools.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will take into consideration the advisability of urging the Government of Ceylon to provide additional estate schools on tea, cocoa, and rubber plantations in Ceylon, in view of the fact that on most of such estates no provision is made for the primary vernacular education of the children of the Tamil labourers; whether he will also ascertain if this question has been discussed by the Education Cess Committee of the Incidence of Taxation Commission now sitting in Colombo; and, if not, will he recommend that the matter be brought under the notice of the Commission.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I am informed by the Governor in answer to a telegram on the subject of the hon. Member's Question that the subject of the education of estate children is to be considered by the Commission. I must await the report.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: Will there be any long delay?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot say.

Labour Question in the Transvaal.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Legislative Council of the Transvaal have complete authority to deal with the labour question in all its aspects without first receiving the sanction of the Imperial Parliament.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer is in the affirmative, but the action of His Majesty's Government in advising the sanction of disallowance of legislation by Colonial Governments is, of course, open to the criticism of the Imperial Parliament.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): May I ask whether information will be given to Parliament before the Government sanctions any such ordinance which would enable its opinion to be expressed before final steps are taken?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Oh no, Sir; I could not possibly give that assurance. It would be absolutely unprecedented. In regard to all these Legislative Councils of Crown Colonies, no doubt we are in a sense responsible for the sanction or otherwise of the ordinances which they pass; but they are not placed before Parliament beforehand, and I see no reason for making an exception in the present case.

Colonial Loans.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state whether the total sum of £3,351,850, authorised to be advanced to certain colonies under the Colonial Loans Act, 1898, has been advanced by the Treasury; and whether the rate of interest upon the loans has in any case been fixed at a higher rate than 2¾ per cent.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (MR. RITCHIE, Croydon): Of the £3,351,820 authorised by the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, loans have been advanced to the amount of £1,305,726. Some of the loans have been made at 2¾ per cent. interest, others at 3, 3¼, and 3½ per cent., according to the periods fixed for repayment and the current rates in force for local loans.

Irish Death and Stamp Duties.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can explain why the produce of death duties and stamps in Ireland, as shown in the Return, No. 248, for the year ending 31st March, 1903, shows a falling off as compared with recent years, the death duties having fallen to £642,000 as compared with £873,000 in 1900–1901, and the stamp duties to £284,000, less than any year since 1895–6; and if he will say what was the proportion of direct to indirect taxation in Ireland last year as shown by this Return.

MR. RITCHIE: The decreased return from death duties for the year ended 31st March last is mainly due to a diminution in the number of large estates passing at death. The receipts from stamp duties show a steady diminution since 1897–8, with the exception of the year 1901–2, in which there was one large special payment. This decline is mainly due to the decreased amount of Stock Exchange transactions during recent years. Of the total taxation of Ireland 26·61 per cent. was yielded by direct and 73·39 per cent. by indirect taxes.

Alien Immigration.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he has received the Report of the Royal Commission upon Alien Immigration, and what steps the Government intend to take to give effect to the recommendations, and prevent a large number of aliens coming in before legislation is passed?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): This Report was handed to me on the 10th inst. I have submitted it to the King, and it has been presented to Parliament. I cannot say that we have yet considered the Report, as it was only received two days ago, and I do not see how the hon. and gallant Member can expect me to say what the Government intend to do at such short notice.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will the right hon. Gentleman consult the First Lord of the Treasury as to the advisability of an autumn session to deal with this very important matter?

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: Most certainly not.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): When will the Report be in the hands of Members? It has been laid on the Table in dummy, but there are copious extracts in the newspapers this morning. Why should it be sent to the Press before hon. Members have it?

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I have seen that it is quoted in the Press, and I am very much annoyed that it is so. I have made the most exhaustive inquiry so far as my own Department is concerned, and I am convinced that there has been no leakage there.

MR. FLOWER: Has the President of the Board of Trade made similar inquiries?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I have not seen the Report myself.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Has this matter been transferred to the Home Office from the Board of Trade? If so, that is very fortunate.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: (Clare, E.): May I ask whether, in view of the fact that this is not the first time that a Report of a Royal Commission has been communicated to the public Press before it has been communicated to Members of this House, he will have a searching investigation made, so that for the future what is really an infraction of the privileges of Members of this House, who are entitled to first information, may be put a stop to?

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I have made inquiry in my own Department. I do not know what further powers I have, but of course I will consider the matter.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of inquiring at the offices of the newspapers where they got it?

The Small Holdings Act, 1892.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley): I beg to ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he will state how many County Councils have appointed committees under the Small Holdings Act, 1892, as directed by Section 5, Sub-section 1, of that Act.

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): The appointment of the committee referred to in Section 5, Sub-section 1, of the Small Holdings Act, 1892, is compulsory on the part of County Councils, and we have no reason to suppose that their statutory requirements in this respect have not been satisfied. Full information as to the proceedings which have taken place under the Act up to the end of last year has recently been obtained, and is about to be published in a Return ordered by the House of Lords a day or two ago.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Will the hon. Gentleman communicate with the County Councils pointing out the provisions of the Act and the duties imposed on County Councils under the clause named.

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES: Circular letters explaining in detail the powers and duties of County and Borough Councils under the Act, were issued by the Board of Agriculture in August, 1892. I shall be glad to supply my hon. friend with copies, and to confer with him as to whether any further steps can usefully be taken in the matter so soon as the Return, to which I have referred, is available.

Religious Instruction in Primary Schools.

MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, in view of the fact that under the new bylaw relative to the withdrawal of children from religious instruction in schools, educational authorities may, without infringing the Conscience Clause, make it a condition of such withdrawal that religious instruction shall be given elsewhere, it is proposed that this by-law shall apply to localities in which there is but one school, and where no facilities for religious instruction are available elsewhere.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The addition to the ordinary form of by-law, which the Board of Education have announced that they will approve, if it should be adopted by a local education authority, does not in any way affect the right of the parent to withdraw his child from religious instruction in a school. The right is specifically set forth, as heretofore. The new portion of the by-law is only concerned with the withdrawal of a child, not merely from the religious instruction, but from the school premises during the time set apart for such instruction. It remains for a local authority, if a County Council, to consider whether they will adopt the suggested form of by-law for all, or any, of the parishes within their area.

Hanwell Poor Law Schools.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state what number of children are authorised by the certificate of the Hanwell Poor Law Schools to be maintained there; how many children have been maintained there during this month; and, if there has been any excess, whether such excess has the approval of the Local Government Board.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) The maximum number of children for which the school referred to is certified is 746. The number of children at the school at the close of the week ended 8th August appears to have been 844. I have not expressed any approval of this excess. The matter is receiving my attention.

Irish Land Purchase.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the issue of a circular to persons in County Wexford by a firm, the managing director of which, Mr. J. A. O'Sullivan, offers to found a syndicate, with a capital of £2,500,000, for the purpose of purchasing and dealing in Irish estates; whether he is aware that this is the person to whom tenants on the Clonfin, County Longford, estate transmitted several sums of money on a representation by him that he was acting for the sale of the estate on behalf of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company, whereas the Company, on 12th May, 1898, circularised the tenants warning them that this person had no authority to make such arrangements with them; and whether, seeing that nothing has been heard by these tenants of the sale to them of this property, nor has any refund of the money so obtained from them been made, he will take steps to prosecute this person for obtaining money under false pretences.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): My attention has been called to the circular, as published in the Press. As far as I have been able to ascertain from reports, Mr. O'Sullivan obtained from some of these tenants money to defray the costs of a survey of the estate, preparatory to sale. He proposed to act under a power of attorney executed by the tenant for life of the estate and the remainder-man, and claimed to be a mortgagee of their interests. Subsequently a prior mortgagee, or the insurance company, disputed Mr. O'Sullivan's right, and the sale fell through. As far as the facts are known to the police, there is no evidence to justify a prosecution.

Kenagh Fair Rent Appeal.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that in 1898 Mrs. Hayes, of Brookfield, Kenagh, served notice of appeal against the fair rent order on her farm; that, although the Land Commission have visited Longford four times since, the appeal has not been listed, nor can any account of it be found; and whether, seeing that this lady claims her farm to be rented at £30 a year more than its value, he will cause her appeal to be listed for next sittings.

MR. ATKINSON: No notice of a fair rent appeal in the name of Mrs. Hayes can be traced in the County Longford Appeal Registers. There are, however, five applications in her name to have fair rents fixed on holdings in the county Longford. These applications—three of which refer to the lands of Kenagh—were lodged in the Land Commission Office on the 29th September, 1902, and will be listed for hearing in due course before a sub-commission.

Cork Rating Difficulty.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now in a position to propose a remedy for the blunder made in connection with the levying of rates in the county borough of Cork in the Application of Irish Enactments Order, which has resulted in inconvenience, litigation, and expense in the county borough of Cork and other five county boroughs in Ireland; whether he will consider the advisability of directing the Commissioners of Valuations to provide a remedy, either by requiring poor rate collectors to furnish their lists in the month of March (instead of June as at present), or by making the financial year in county boroughs end on 30th June (instead of 31st March as at present); and whether, if necessary, he will introduce legislation at once to deal with this public inconvenience.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): It is hardly correct to say that a blunder was made in the Order mentioned. On the 15th June I admitted that in some of the county boroughs difficulty had been experienced in making payments in advance to boards of guardians, in the early part of the financial year. I have since inquired whether it is practical, by administrative action, to provide a remedy to meet the difficulty. At present the revised valuation lists are issued to the rating authorities on the 1st March, the date fixed by the Order. If the lists could be issued a month earlier the difficulty, I understand, would be obviated. The Commissioner of Valuation states that to complete the work of revision by the 1st February, an augmentation of his staff would be necessary. The whole matter is now engaging consideration, and I propose to examine carefully into the question during the recess.

Sergeant Byrne, Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to a prosecution recently instituted by Sergeant Byrne, of Bookeen, Loughrea, against Mr. T. Connors, D.C.; whether he is aware that Mr. Gardiner, R.M., on behalf of his brother magistrates, on announcing the decision of the Court, namely, dismissal of the case, expressed a wish that an inquiry should take place into the conduct of Sergeant Byrne; and, if so, whether such inquiry has taken place, and with what result.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have received a report on this occurrence this morning, and will give it careful attention.

Inquiry into the Irish Labourers Act.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what is the object of the inquiry announced by him into the working of the Labourers Acts; and whether he proposes to draft a Bill dealing with the question during the autumn to be introduced next year.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have no further announcement to make in this matter, except to say that the special reports which have been called for from the Local Government Board Inspectors will deal with the working of the Acts throughout the country and the sufficiency of existing legislation to meet the requirements of the labourers.

MR. MURPHY: Are we to understand the right hon. Gentleman definitely pledges himself to bring in a Bill dealing with this question next session.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have nothing to add to the very clear pledges I have given on the subject.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): Will the District Councils be given the administration of the Acts——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Kerry Congested Districts.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will cause the attention of the Congested Districts Board to be directed to the County of Kerry immediately with the view of having some work done by the Board in the congested districts of Coom, Glenflesk, Brosna, Knocknagoshel, and elsewhere.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question will be brought under the notice of the Board at its next meeting.

Irish Poor Law Medical Officers.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the Irish Poor Law medical officers will be afforded any and what opportunity of having their alleged grievances inquired into by the Government; and if he will explain the reason why no notice has been taken hitherto of their remonstrances.

MR. WYNDHAM: Any representations which the Poor Law medical officers may make, in writing, in respect of their alleged grievances will be considered. No such representations have recently been addressed to the Local Government Board.

Tullamore Medical Officer.

DR. THOMPSON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain the reason of the action of the Local Government Board in connection with the refusal of Dr. M'Carthy to take up the temporary position of *locum tenens* of Tullamore Dispensary, to which he was lately appointed.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have already stated that a sworn inquiry is proposed to be held into the circumstances connected with Dr. M'Carthy's appointment as dispensary medical officer, and his subsequent refusal to enter upon the duties of the office. At the present stage of the case, I am debarred from discussing the matter further.

Answering a further Question the right hon. Gentleman said that, pending the inquiry, he must decline to discuss the matter.

Maryborough Discharged Convicts.

MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that discharged invalid convicts from Maryborough convict prison have been sent to the Mountmellick Workhouse, and become chargeable upon the local rates; and, if so, whether he will state by whose order those convicts have been so sent, and why they were not deported to their native unions, or to those in which they were located at the time of their conviction.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am informed by the Prisons Board that before the first of the three prisoners was discharged inquiry was made whether he would be admitted to a workhouse in his native county. The authorities of that workhouse, however, refused to admit him. The guardians of the Mountmellick Union have, I admit, a substantial grievance in the matter; but the question of providing a remedy is one that requires, and will receive, further and careful consideration.

Railway and Canal Rates in Ireland.

MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will cause inquiries to be made into the alleged existence of an arrangement come to between the Grand Canal Company and the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, whereby the freights for goods upon the canal to Portarlington, Mountmellick, and Tullamore have been raised, and a percentage paid by the railway company to the canal company in consequence.

MR. KILBRIDE: At the same time may I ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will inquire if any arrangements have been made between the Great Southern and Western Railway and the Grand Canal Company fixing the minimum rate to be charged for goods traffic at competitive stations, such as Monasterevan, Athy, Carlow, and Bagnalstown; whether the Grand Canal Company is to receive any percentage on the receipts of the carrying trade to these railway stations; and, if so, whether, in view of the necessity of keeping the waterways of Ireland open as competitive routes, and of the effect of such arrangements on means of transit, he will state what steps will be taken in the matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Department has no knowledge of any arrangements such as suggested, and no representations have been made to it on the subject.

MR. DELANY: Will the Department inquire into this allegation? To my knowledge the rates have gone up 25 per cent. on account of the arrangement.

MR. WYNDHAM: In these matters the Department does not act on its own initiative, although it is prepared to consider any representations that may be made to it.

MR. KILBRIDE: Then before any inquiry is made must representations be made by interested persons?

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir; any person who feels aggrieved can put his complaint before the Department, which cannot be expected to act on its own initiative.

MR. KILBRIDE: And when the representation is made, the Department will inquire?

MR. WYNDHAM: It will consider the matter.

Borrisoleigh Petty Sessions—Meagher's Case.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain how, in the case of the boy Meagher, charged at Borrisoleigh Petty Sessions in October or November, 1902, the Court dismissed the case without prejudice, instead of on the merits, considering that the evidence of Meagher's parish priest and seven other witnesses went to prove that the accused was a total abstainer; and if, under the circumstances, this young man is liable to be again prosecuted.

MR. WYNDHAM: The evidence for the defence was to the effect that Meagher was of temperate habits. The evidence of four witnesses for the prosecution was that he was drunk on the occasion. Having heard the witnesses on both sides, the magistrates, owing to the conflicting nature of the evidence, dismissed the charge without prejudice. The cause of complaint having arisen more than six months ago, Meagher is not now liable to be again proceeded against on the same charge.

Cork Mail Delays.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the inconvenience suffered by business people in Cork owing to delays in the delivery of the mails there, and to the fact that, on the 6th instant, the mails left Dublin for Cork forty-five minutes late; and if so, whether he will take steps to provide a remedy for this state of affairs.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): As I stated to the hon. Member for South Tipperary on 28th May last,† the occasional late arrival of the English mails in Dublin is sometimes due to unavoidable causes, such as unfavourable weather or accidents on the railway. but sometimes it is caused by the heavy traffic. When the number of passengers for Ireland is larger than usual, it is frequently necessary to run the night mail train to Holyhead in two portions, and as the first portion can be started little, if at all, before the appointed time, the second portion must be late in arrival at Holyhead. The railway company have been urged to make arrangements for reducing to a minimum the delay thus caused, but it is feared that some delay is unavoidable. The delay which occurred on the morning of the 6th instant was due to heavy traffic, both of passengers and mails, and also to unfavourable weather at sea. The hon. Member may rest assured that I will do all that is possible to minimise delay.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the fact that the London and North Western Railway Company are in the habit of booking passengers to Holyhead and intervening stations by the Irish mail, and would it not save many delays if they would only book passengers for Ireland? Can the right hon. Gentleman not suggest that to them.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am afraid that would get me into trouble with the people of Holyhead and other places.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN: But the subsidy is paid for the Irish mail service, and surely that gives a right to ask this limit.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is constantly the case that the Postmaster-General is asked to do the very reverse of what the hon. Gentleman suggests. My first duty is, of course, to see to the carriage of the mails, and I do not wish to inconvenience passengers more than is absolutely necessary.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN: Could not the right hon. Gentleman call attention to the fact that there is an excess of traffic, for which more accommodation is needed?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not think there is a deficiency of accommodation. It is the case that the company have to provide two trains in order to deal with the large traffic at certain seasons of the year, and one train must start after the advertised time. That causes some delay at Holyhead.

Castleblaney Post Office—Female Telegraph Learners.

MR. M'KEAN (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the rules for the admission of female telegraph learners have been recently dispensed with in making appointments to the local post office at Castleblaney, in the county of Monaghan; that the surveyor of the district has deprived the postmistress at Castleblaney of the right of selecting candidates for the afore-mentioned position which she has hitherto enjoyed; and that the surveyor has selected candidates for the position who, in respect of age and otherwise, do not comply with the rules of the Civil Service Commissioners; and, if so, whether he will have the matter inquired into, and see that the practice on the part of the surveyor is discontinued.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 128.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information on the subject, but am making inquiry, and will let the hon. Member know the result.

Motor-Car Regulations.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any instructions not to enforce the speed limit of motor-cars outside towns have been issued by the Home Office; and, if so, whether he will lay a copy upon the Table.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: No such instructions have been issued.

Irish Mail Service.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Irish mail train from and to Holyhead is often so crowded, owing to insufficiency of carriages, that passengers are obliged to stand in the corridors, to their inconvenience and danger; and will he state what steps he proposes taking to correct this state of affairs.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: This is not a matter with which the Board of Trade have authority to deal. I have, however, brought the hon. Member's Question to the notice of the railway company concerned.

Railway Delays of Irish Produce.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, having regard to the number of specific complaints which have been forwarded in connection with the detention of Irish produce by the railway companies, and the deterioration of such produce through delay, he can say what steps the Board of Trade are prepared to take to insist on the railway companies forwarding such goods to the English markets without delay, and thereby put them on a footing of equality with foreign produce.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have received through the hon. Member a number of complaints of delay in forwarding saltless butter from Limerick to places in England and Wales, and am having inquiry made into the matter. The butter has to pass through the hands of several carrying companies, and except in one case, in which it is admitted that a consignment was forwarded in the first instance to a wrong address, I have not yet ascertained whether any avoidable delays occurred. I have no evidence that Irish butter is at any disadvantage in railway transit as compared with foreign butter.

Land Tax Commissioners Name Bill.

MR. J. H. LEWIS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is intended to introduce a Land Tax Commissioners Name Bill before the close of the present Parliament.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): No Bill is necessary in the course of this session; but I think it is not improbable that a Bill should be brought in either next session or the session after; but I cannot give any final decision on that point at present.

The Fiscal Inquiry.

MR. DALZIEL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Returns, or any instalment of the Returns, in relation to the fiscal inquiry of the Government have been received from the Treasury; if so, when will they be presented to the House; and whether the Returns, when published, will be accompanied by any explanatory letter that may have been received from the Treasury officials.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know that I can usefully add anything to what I said yesterday.† I do not know to what Returns the hon. Gentleman refers.

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† See page 875

MR. DALZIEL: May I take it that the right hon. Gentleman's answer means that no instalments of these Returns have been received from either the Treasury or the Board of Trade?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have over and over again said, and I stated it in most explicit terms yesterday, that I hope that within a month very important Returns will be laid before the House and the country. I do not know that I can add anything to that.

MR. DALZIEL: My Question is whether I am to understand that no instalment of the Returns has up to now been received from the Treasury or the Board of Trade?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know what the hon. Gentleman means. I stated yesterday that, after these Returns were in print and proofs were received, a very careful examination had to take place in order to check the figures and to see that no errors had crept in. Of course, a great many of the Returns are already in print and are undergoing that process.

MR. BRYCE: May I ask whether, by the use of the word "instalment," we are to understand that from time to time, as these documents are received and prepared for publication during the recess, they will be published, and whether we may assume that the first block, of which the right hon. Gentleman spoke as to be given to us in the next four weeks, will be followed at proper intervals by such other matter as may be obtained?

MR. LOUGH: Does the right hon. Gentleman know that a definite statement was made in a leading newspaper last Saturday, that a Report had been received from the officials of the Treasury and of the Board of Trade? Is there any truth in that statement?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not really know to what statement the hon. Gentleman refers. With regard to the Question of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, I think he cannot have been in the House yesterday, when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Fife complained of my suggestion that, after the Board of Trade had issued a volume of these Returns, it would be open to anybody to make suggestions as to further information that might be required. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife complained very bitterly of the suggestion. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman agrees with that?

MR. BRYCE: My Question has nothing whatever to do with the remarks made by my right hon. friend yesterday, which I heard. It is founded entirely on what the right hon. Gentleman said when he talked of instalments. Do I understand from his use of the word "instalments" that after the publication of Returns, four weeks from now, other Returns, when prepared, will be published during the vacation?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There is no ambiguity or doubt about the matter. We have asked for the preparation of a certain number of Returns. These Returns will, I hope, be published within a month. They will certainly not be delayed materially beyond a month. I think they will be published before four weeks have elapsed. They will include all the Returns that have been asked for. Whether other Returns will be asked for, either by Members of the Government or the public, remains to be seen. If they are asked for and granted, they will be laid on the Table as soon as they are ready.

MR. BRYCE: I understood the right hon. Gentleman in a totally different sense.

MR. DALZIEL: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer my Question on the Paper—"Yes" or "No" is the answer—whether instalments of the Returns have been received from either the Treasury or the Board of Trade?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What does the right hon. Gentleman mean by instalments? Does he mean a Paper which has been revised and is now ready for publication? If he means that, they have not been received. If he means that we have proofs, advance proofs, of some important Returns, then there are instalments. Is the hon. Gentleman satisfied now?

MR. DALZIEL: It is the duty of the Government to revise these Returns.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is exactly what we are doing.

MR. DALZIEL: Quite so. Then why do you not answer my Question?

Management of Government Factories.

MR. J. H. LEWIS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to the Fifth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, which expresses the opinion that, looking at the vast sums which will assuredly be wasted, year after year, under incompetent management in an enormous manufacturing business like the Royal Arsenal, it would be true economy to offer salaries to persons placed in control of the several departments commensurate with those given in civil life; and whether the Government propose to take any action in the matter.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee is being carefully considered by the Secretary of State for War, who is in communication with the Treasury on the subject.

Port of London Bill.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Isle of Thanet): With regard to the notice for carrying over the Port of London Bill to another session, will the right hon. Gentleman make it clear that it is an exceptional step which is not to be made into a precedent?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir; I think I can quite reassure the right hon. Gentleman. The Port of London Bill is carried over to next session as a *quasi* private Bill, not only for the convenience of Parliament, but to save the hardship of great expense being again incurred by private interests. I assure my right hon. friend, with all due emphasis, that this will not be, and cannot be, made a precedent for carrying over public Bills from session to session.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: I only want it to be made publicly known that this is not to constitute a precedent.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Quite so, and if the right hon. Gentleman can suggest any form of words which will place more emphasis on my asseveration I shall be prepared to use them on the proper occasion.

The War Commission.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Prime Minister a Question of which I have given him private notice—viz., what progress has been made with the inquiry into the conduct of the war, and when will the Report be in the hands of Members.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have only just received notice of the Question. There is some difficulty in communicating with a Royal Commission, which is independent of any Government office, and I cannot answer such a Question unless it appears in due course on the Paper.

MR. A. DAVIES: I gave the notice to a messenger to hand to the right hon. Gentleman at four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. I will inquire as to the cause of the delay.

MR. BRYCE: Is it not the case that the Commission has concluded its inquiry and agreed upon its Report?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes. The Secretary to the Treasury now tells me the Report is in the hands of the printers.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE: Will the Leader of the House state what arrangements have been made with regard to business for to-morrow?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The only business to-morrow, so far as I know, after the Indian Budget, will be the Third Reading of the Revenue Bill and the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill. I believe it would be convenient to the House to dispose of the Appropriation Bill so that nothing shall be left for Friday except the Prorogation; but if any considerable section of the House desires to have a discussion on the Third Reading, it will not be proper to put any pressure upon the House.

Mr. BRYCE: I think there will be a general concurrence in the statement of the First Lord of the Treasury, but I will take note that should there be a desire to discuss the Appropriation Bill it will not be taken at an unduly late hour.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to: Railway (Electrical Power) Bill; South African Loan and War Contribution Bill; Military Works Bill; Public Works Loans Bill; Isle of Man (Customs) Bill, without Amendment.

Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill; Town Councils (Scotland) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have agreed to: Sheep Scab Bill, with an Amendment.

NEW BILL.

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS BILL.

"To consolidate and amend the Akali, etc., Works Regulation Acts, 1881 and 1892," presented by Mr. Walter Long; supported by Mr. Grant Lawson; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 325.]

IRISH LAND BILL.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said he thought that, while the Government and the great landed proprietors in the other House had acted loyally, some of the Amendments were of a character which made them very difficult to deal with, and he complained that Members had not had the opportunity of putting down Amendments to some of the provisions decided upon in the other Chamber. He wished particularly to complain of the state in which the Land Judges Court had been left, and intimated that when they came to that portion of the Bill he would claim to further amend it.

Lords Amendments considered.

Lords Amendment—

> "In page 1, line 10, after the word 'aforesaid' to insert the words 'provided that if any person interested in the estate makes application to the Land Commission in the prescribed manner, the order sanctioning the advance shall set forth the specific grounds for dealing with the case under this sub-section instead of under the foregoing provisions of this section.'"

the first Amendment, read a second time.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND, (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) said that in moving, that the House do disagree with that Amendment he was very far indeed from suggesting that the first clause of the Bill in the form in which it finally passed the House of Commons was of so sacro-sanct a character as to justify them in refusing to consider any Amendment to it at all. But the clause was arrived at in its present shape after a prolonged and anxious period of consideration and received the approval of the representatives of all the parties interested. That being so, although they were quite ready to consider proposed Amendments, he thought that under the circumstances any Amendment should at least fulfil two conditions. In the first place it should be precise and unmistakable in its purport, and in the second place it should be of some advantage to the parties interested. He would apply those tests to this Amendment. Was it so precise in its terminology that it would give rise to no future debates. He was told, by those best qualified to advise him, that these words if rigidly interpreted would prove a stimulus to future dissent and legislation. If they did not affect the general meaning of the clause then they became mere surplusage. He held that the Amendment was ambiguous; and likely to become a bone of contention. It was of no obvious advantage to either landlord or tenant, and he hoped the House would not agree with the Lords.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said the landlords of Ireland felt strongly the desirability of inserting the proviso as a means of placing on record the views of those who proposed it, but in view of the nature of the whole clause and the general spirit in which it was arrived at, he advised the acceptance of the Chief Secretary's decision.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 2, line 23, to leave out the words 'and adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of the estate.' "

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. WYNDHAM said that while he must ask the House to restore the words, he was prepared to give to the Land Commission a discretion to apply the clause to the case of a landlord, part of whose estate was in one county and part in another, because he believed it would facilitate purchase to have the whole property treated as one. He would therefore later on move to add to the end of the clause—

"Provided that the Land Commission may, if they think it necessary for furthering the purposes of this Act, dispense with the condition in this sub-section that the land purchased and resold shall be adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of the estate."

MR. T. M. HEALY said his sympathies were with the House of Lords in this matter. He was sure the objection to this Amendment was purely a Treasury objection and that the heart of the Chief Secretary was not in it.

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In line 26, at end of sub-section, to add the words 'provided that the Land Commission may, if they think it necessary for furthering the purposes of this Act, dispense with the condition in this sub-section that the land purchased and resold shall be adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of the estate.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 2, line 40, to leave out the words 'to the vendor.' Line 41, to leave out the word 'the' and insert the word 'a.' Line 42, after the word 'application' to insert 'within the prescribed time.' "

"In page 4, line 5, after the word 'it' to insert the words: (5) If the owner of any demesne or other land subject to settlement and sold to the Land Commission does not repurchase the same within the prescribed time, the Land Commission may make an advance under this section to the trustees of the settlement, and in such case the land resold shall be held subject to the trusts of the settlement. (6) Any land resold in pursuance of this section shall not be subject to the provisions of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, relating to the devolution of freehold registered land.' "

"In page 5, line 5, after the word 'Commission' to insert the words 'with the consent of the owner,' "

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Lords Amendments agreed to.

Lords Amendment

"In page 7, line 16, to leave out 'the foregoing provisions' and insert 'Sub-section 1 of Section 1,' "

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. WYNDHAM said this was a doubtful point, but he felt that he must ask the House to disagree with the Amendment. In the case of a sale to the Land Commission the Land Commission would become the vendor in lieu of the tenant, and no case of the guarantee deposit would arise. In the case of a sale from landlord to tenant it might be held that it was a matter entirely for the landlord. But the House were responsible for legislation, and the Government which introduced the legislation were responsible for its subsequent effects. This Amendment would apply only in the case of bargains outside and above the zone, which would result in a reduction of less than 10 per cent. Such bargains were not likely to be frequent, but they would occur in certain cases of very valuable tenancies. He doubted however whether they ought to legislate for such rare exceptions, all the more since, in his opinion, the Amendment was not in the true interest of either landlord or tenant.

Looking at it from the point of view of the tenants, he did not think it would do any harm, though it might be held that there was an intention to raise the price. Looking at it from the point of view of the landlords, he had considered the matter very carefully. By such a statutory enactment they would almost be giving a direction to the Estates Commissioners that in every case where the price was above the zone they were to retain a guarantee deposit. If that was once done it would become the law for all futurity. Therefore, although he spoke with great diffidence, being the Minister most responsible for the Bill, and having come to the definite conclusion that the guarantee deposit had been a mistake in the past and would be a mistake in the future, he asked the House to disagree with the Lords' Amendment.

Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 8, line 3, to leave out the words 'the exclusive."

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. WYNDHAM moved to agree with the Lords in the Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY thought the House were entitled to some explanation on this matter. As he understood it the right hon. Gentleman proposed to omit the words "the exclusive," and to insert in the next line the words "sporting rights exclusive of the tenant." He would like to understand what the difference was between the two forms of phraseology. The question of sporting rights was discussed at length in Committee, and a kind of understanding arrived at between the two sides. He did not desire to increase the difficulties of the Government at this period of the session, but before the Amendment was agreed to he would like some explanation of the change.

MR. WYNDHAM thought it would be convenient now to state what the general effect of the Lords Amendment and of the Amendment he proposed to move would be. The first sub-section of the clause as it stood dealt with exclusive rights, and it stated that where the landlord had exclusive rights he could make an arrangement by which to retain them himself or convey them to the tenant. The Amendment, "sporting rights exclusive of the tenants," was to meet an objection raised in the other House which would not occur in many cases, but which, when it did occur, ought to be met. This clause considered only the relation between landlord and tenant. On some properties in Ireland the head landlord had a visionary right to shoot concurrently with the right of the man who, in common terminology, was called the landlord. In those cases no question would arise between landlord and tenant, and the landlord ought to have anything the House decided to give under this clause. There were other cases in which rights were granted, and the representative of the grantee had certain rights over 150,000 acres, but was landlord over perhaps only 20,000 or 30,000 of those acres. Over the balance he had by charter a right to shoot which, though not exercised, was still existent, and the Government desired to treat the balance of the acres as though he were the landlord. Coming to the more substantial changes, if the proposed Amendments were accepted the landlord who had not the exclusive rights over the whole of his property, would be able to obtain that right by treaty with the tenant before the sale was effected. He would then have the exclusive right, and would be able either to retain it or to convey it to the tenant. If the right was neither retained nor conveyed to the tenant purchaser, it went to the Land Commission to be dealt with as might hereafter be determined. Non-exclusive rights were left out of account. If the landlord had not the exclusive right and did not acquire it before the sale, the right went to the tenant, because the whole fee-simple was conveyed to him. If the landlord did that, and if there was a non-exclusive right in the hands of the tenant, why then if he resided there the chances were, the certainty in his opinion, that he would be the first and best able on the most favourable terms to have the shooting from the tenant and the man to whom the tenant was most likely to let. In that way if the landlord wished to enjoy the amenities of sport he was more likely than anybody else to get the shooting and to enjoy it. That was the result which would accrue if his Amendment to the Amendment passed in the other House were accepted.

Mr MURPHY (Kerry, E.) said they understood that a compromise was arrived at when the Bill was being discussed in this House, and none of them anticipated that a change would be made in the House of Lords. One of the extraordinary things which those interested in the tenants had observed recently, was the fact that while the House of Lords was composed mainly of landlords they had not the least hesitation in taking part in the discussion of this measure which affected the interests of their class. References were sometimes made in their House to the impropriety of company directors and others voting upon matters in which they were directly interested. But in this matter of sporting rights it was otherwise with the House of Lords. A large number of tenants in Ireland went into Court and had fair rents fixed. They were simply concerned with the question of what the rent in future would be, and owing to their ignorance of the law they were deprived by the landlords or their representatives of their sporting rights. What would happen if the Amendment now proposed by the right hon. Gentleman were accepted? It appeared to him that the landlords would, if they were so minded, simply disagree with the tenants in the matter of sporting rights. Then the Estates Commissioners would inquire into the position, and the judicial tenants would find that while they had a legal right to the land they had no legal claim whatever on the sporting rights. He thought the Bill should be allowed to remain as it left this House. They should not introduce a change which would have the effect of prejudicing a large number of tenants in Ireland.

Mr. WYNDHAM said the hon. Member had complained that noble Lords in another place had looked at this Bill more or less from the point of view of the landlords. Was that such a terrible thing? The hon. Member seemed to think that they had not taken a proper view of the proposals brought before them. He himself did not think that that was a charge to be laid against them. The hon. Member himself, and his colleagues in this House, were the representatives of a large number of persons who had no voice here except through them, and he was perfectly certain that, in the attitude they had adopted in the debates, they were actuated throughout by a great sense of responsibility and loyalty to many persons in Ireland who were not so well circumstanced as themselves. He might also say that the impression created in his mind was that they fought those questions more sharply than they would have done if they had thought only of themselves. They thought it was their duty to look after the interests of others than themselves. Passing from that larger issue he thought on the whole that the representatives of the tenants in this House and the representatives of the landlords in another place might alike congratulate themselves on having approached this measure in a broad spirit and with a conciliatory tendency. He understood that the representatives of the tenants in this House attached prime importance to four questions—namely, the effect of the zones, the interest of the evicted tenants, the effect of the Bill on congestion, and the effect on labour. None of these had been adversely altered in another place. Looking at the other side of the picture it was known all along that noble Lords in another place, in their representative capacity, were speaking for men who had no opportunity of being heard, and that they attached great importance to the amenities of those who lived in their native land in Ireland. Among those amenities they placed sporting rights very high, and surely when hon. Members reflected that shooting in Ireland did not compare with the great and costly battues in the North of this country, that was a proof that the Irish landlords wished to live in Ireland and enjoy sport. In taking a stand on the sporting rights, they had not pressed their position at all far. Where the rights were not exclusive and were secured to them by documents, they were not prepared to make any great change in the clause as it passed in this House. The hon. Member had said that many tenants had, without due consideration, given up sporting rights which they might legally have held. He could assure the hon. Member that after a careful study of this question, it had happened more frequently in the case of the landlord. In many cases the landlords could quite easily by a turn of the pen, have reserved to themselves under judicial leases the sporting rights, but that had not been done over a great part of Ireland, and that was the reason why those rights were not exclusive but joint. In respect of those rights which were exclusive, the Government said landlords might keep them or convey them, and where there were no exclusive rights they left it to the future, and to the good sense and amity of all parties.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said the right hon. Gentleman stated that during the discussion of this matter in Committee, something in the nature of an agreement or an understanding was come to. The agreement was to the effect that exclusive sporting rights were to be left a matter of agreement between landlord and tenant. If the proposal, now suggested, interfered with that, he thought they would have reason to complain, but he did not understand that it did interfere. The way the matter stood was this. If under the Bill as it stood, landlord and tenant failed to come to an agreement, the only thing that would happen would be that a sale would not take place at all. It would fall through. The suggestion was now, that instead of a sale being allowed to fall through because of their not being able to come to an agreement regarding the exclusive sporting rights, these rights should be vested in the Land Commission. In his judgment that did not prejudice the agreement that was come to here. His own objection was of a different character altogether. He had all along held that the proper solution of this question was to vest the sporting rights in some public body, but he was not bound to the opinion that they ought to be vested in the Land Commission. He would be very much pleased if they were vested in the County Councils, and he was not without hope that eventually that was what would happen. So far as the present suggestion was concerned, he thought his hon. friend might be easy in his mind with regard to the agreement come to in Committee. If they were satisfied with that agreement, it was not prejudiced by the suggestion now made. On the contrary, he thought that understanding was improved, because it provided a way out where there was disagreement of landlord and tenant, which might lead to failure altogether—namely, by providing that sporting rights should be vested in the Land Commission. Under those circumstances he thought they might accept the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said the right hon. Gentleman stated that there were some cases in which the landlord had not the exclusive right. He had truly said that there were some cases where the head landlord and middleman had between them the rights of fishing and the rights of shooting. He asked the right hon. Gentleman how the head landlord would be affected by the Amendment now proposed. It appeared to him that any rights he previously had would be altogether extinguished. He called attention to this, because he considered it would be a hardship, in many cases, if the head landlord, who did not come in touch with the occupying tenant, and who might be in the enjoyment of the rights of fishing and shooting under old leases and grants, was to be completely ignored with regard to these rights.

MR. WYNDHAM said he could satisfy the right hon. and learned Gentleman by directing him to Clause 97 of the Bill, which safeguarded the rights referred to.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) said the only persons who would have the right of shooting on those properties where the landlord and tenant could not agree, would be the Land Commissioners, because if this Amendment were accepted the sporting rights would be vested in them.

MR. WYNDHAM did not think so. Their enjoyment would be fettered by the words he proposed to move—namely, "Subject to regulations made by the Lord Lieutenant."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.), said there was a good deal of feeling all through Ireland on this important matter, and also a good deal of misapprehension. Perhaps he might be allowed to say this, with the assent of the right hon. Gentleman. Under the Amendment introduced by the House of Lords, no single landlord in Ireland need part with his land under any circumstances whatever, unless he made an agreement which suited him with regard to the sporting rights of his tenant.

MR. WYNDHAM said it was not compulsory that the tenants should buy under terms of which they did not approve.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) asked whether the clause as now amended would affect the concurrent rights provided for in Clause 97.

MR. WYNDHAM: I think not.

MR. HEMPHILL thought Clause 97 met an important difficulty. In many instances the head landlord and middleman had concurrent rights to fish and shoot, and he wished to know clearly whether the Amendment now proposed by the Chief Secretary would extinguish altogether the rights of the head landlord.

MR. WYNDHAM thought the right hon. Gentleman was in error. The landlord who had the superior interest had concurrent rights with the middleman to fish and shoot. But now the man whom they called the vendor might, by agreement with the tenant, give him the exclusive right to shoot and fish.

MR. NOLAN (Louth, S.) said that if inquiry were made it would be found that more lives had been lost, more blood shed, and more heart-burning created in carrying out the game laws of England than had taken place in connection with many a war. So far as Ireland was concerned, he would ask the representatives of the Government, with a view to the good government of the country, to endeavour by every means in their power to bring about a satisfactory solution of this question, which, to his mind, could only be established by making the tenant occupier the sole proprietor of the sporting rights.

MR. SPEAKER said he would remind the hon. Member that they were not discussing the general question of sporting rights; and it was out of order to discuss the general question of the game laws. The hon. Member must confine himself to the Lords Amendment.

MR. NOLAN said he bowed to Mr. Speaker's ruling. What he wished to do was to draw the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to the fact that in his constituency this matter was regarded as very serious, and any Amendment that might be directed against the understanding arrived at in this House would, if adopted, be sure to lead to future trouble.

MR. McGOVERN (Cavan, W.) said he wished to know whether the view of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford was correct, that in the case of a dispute between landlord and tenant the game rights would be vested in the Land Commission. If otherwise, it would be of great importance to keep the clause as it stood.

MR. WYNDHAM said that if the game rights were exclusive and were not reserved, they went to the Land Commission; if the rights were not exclusive they went to the tenant and became exclusive to him.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he felt the difficulty in which the Government had been placed in this matter. At the same time the arrangement come to in this House had not been strictly adhered to in the House of Lords. He did not rise at all to make any complaint whatever against the great landed proprietors of Ireland in the House of Lords. He thought their attitude was, on the whole, admirable; but hon. Members had some reason to complain of the pressure which had been brought to bear on the Government by the small and new "Shoneen" landlords of the country. The Duke of Devonshire, Lord Lansdowne, and other great landlords had given every assistance to the Government, and he wished to say, by way of warning, that if this Act was to be worked by these small new landlords in the spirit they had displayed in the House of Lords, as contrasted with the spirit shown by the greater landlords, he was afraid that there would be very little chance of a real appeasement in Ireland. It was hopeless to expect that tenants would allow strangers to come on to their land once the landlords had been bought out On the other hand, where a proper spirit had been shown, as it had been shown by so many of the great landowners, he believed that the tenants would not only welcome them back to shoot over their land, but would assist to preserve the game for them on their farms. The mean man, the man who was not a gentleman, it was to whom the Irish tenants objected. That was the man of whom they were in terror that he would make these sporting rights a medium of oppression. This was a serious matter, going to the very root of Irish life, and he thought that the manner in which it had been left by the House of Lords would not tend to the real improvement of the state of things in Ireland. He, however, hoped these small and new gentry would take a pattern from their betters.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 8, line 5, to leave out the first word 'tenant' and insert the word 'purchaser,' and leave out the second word 'tenant' and insert the word purchaser,'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 8, line 6, to leave out the word 'landlord' and insert the word 'vendor,' and insert the following sub-section: '(2) In default of any agreement between the tenant and the vendor, all sporting rights shall go to and be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission may deal with the same subject to any rules which may be made by the Lord Lieutenant,'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. WYNDHAM said he proposed to amend this Amendment by making Subsection 2 read as follows—

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"To leave out Sub-Section 2 and insert the words, 'In the absence of such agreement those rights shall be vested in the Land Commission, and the Land Commission may deal with the same subject to any regulations to be made by the Lord Lieutenant.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. T M. Healy.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 8, line 8, after the word 'land' to insert the words 'and the expression "game" has the same meaning as in Section 5 of the Act of 1881, and also includes deer,'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. KILBRIDE said that before the House accepted this Amendment he wished to direct attention to what the present position was in some parts of Ireland On Lord Clanricarde's estate and the adjoining property, there were very extensive woods which contained very many deer. These woods were not enclosed, and the deer were wild and wandered all over the farms in the neighbourhood, especially in the summer time, and did great injury to the corn crops. Would these farmers be open to the same pains and penalties if they interfered with these deer under this Act as under the existing law?

Mr. WYNDHAM said that the objection raised was not pertinent to the Amendment before the House, which merely said that the factor in any agreement was that the tenant might take the deer if the landlord agreed that the sporting rights were to remain with the tenant. Nothing in the Act could affect any right that the farmer had. If a deer came out of the wood and ate up or lay down in the corn, the tenant was left to the remedy of the ordinary law and the customary relations between man and man.

Mr. MURPHY said that he had known cases brought into the County Court to recover damage done by deer in eating up or destroying wheat and other crops.

Mr. WYNDHAM said the hon. Member could hardly expect him to attempt to change the law of the land in this respect. The question did not arise on this Bill, and it was quite outside the scope of the present discussion.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 8, line 13, after the word 'on' to insert the words 'or under,'" the next Amendment, read a second time.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 8, line 20, after the word 'clay' to insert the words 'Provided also, that where any such right reserved to the Land Commission under this sub-section is at any time hereafter let, leased, sold, or demised by them, the vendor (or the person who would have been entitled thereto if the lands had not been sold) shall be entitled to receive 25 per cent. of any rent, purchase money, or other net profit received by the Land Commission in respect of same, unless the Land Commission shall have purchased from the person entitled to such percentage his interest therein, and the Land Commission may purchase such interest at any time on such terms as may be sanctioned by the Treasury.'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. T. M. HEALY said this was one of the most extraordinary Amendments ever inserted in a Bill in this House, or anywhere else. The landlord was supposed to have sold his estate and there might or might not be minerals on the surface. The landlord had himself never mined the land. A century hence an adventurer might arrive, say from New Zealand, and after discovering in Ireland some minerals, invest his money, and develop the land in regard to those minerals. By that time all the purchase instalments would have been paid off, and the land would have passed outside the ken of the Land Commission. And yet forsooth by this Amendment the successor in title of the landlord was to reap a benefit of 25 per cent. A more grasping and greedy proposal could not have been suggested. He knew the great difficulties of the Government upon this question, and he would suggest as a compromise that this should be during the life of the vendor, or say, within twenty years. Unless some such suggestion was adopted, he should be obliged to divide against this Amendment. It was perfectly absurd that they should for ever vest in the landlord this shadowy right, which he had never attempted to make anything of before. This was the only Bill which did anything towards the nationalisation of some of the ingredients of the land in Ireland, and in his speech upon this question the Chief Secretary stated that the Treasury would have the minerals as an asset for the money they were advancing under this Bill. Now it was proposed that 25 per cent. of this asset should be frittered away and given to the landlords. They were really discussing this Amendment in shackles, and they could not lay their views before the Government, except on the spur of the moment. He would move to omit "25" and insert "1," and then they could consider how to deal afterwards with the rest of the clause.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 6, to leave out the words '25' and insert the word '1.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words '25' stand part of the Lords' Amendment."

MR. WYNDHAM said the hon. and learned Member opposite had invited him to give the reason which had led the Government to accept this Amendment. The Government accepted this Amendment because they believed that unless they did so land purchase would be retarded, if not altogether stopped, on certain estates in Ireland. ("No, no.") Upon this point he especially invited the attention of hon. Members who dissented from this Amendment. The hon. and learned Member opposite had stated that a shadowy right would continue for a century. He wished to deal with the facts. Where the existence of minerals was so shadowy as all that, the prospect of money being invested there at a remunerative rate was very remote, and the Land Commission would be able to buy out the mineral rights of the owner for a song. In such cases the landlord would be glad to take £25, or a £5 note, for mineral rights of that kind. The Government were not thinking of that kind of case at all, and what they were thinking of was the cases where it was known that minerals did exist. There were cases where the landlord was working those minerals on some part of his estate, and where he was not working the other portions of the estate simply because he had not sufficient capital at his command. Did any reasonable being believe that any landlord, under those circumstances, would sell his land at the ordinary price, if he was to make a present to the purchaser of the whole value of the mineral rights. He had been led to accept this Amendment because it had been proved to him that such cases as he had mentioned did exist, and if those rights were protected, there were many instances where landlords would throw their heart and soul into the working of this Act. How could they ask those landlords to do that if, by the Act, they were to forego the right of perhaps making £2,000 or £3,000 a year. The hon. and learned Member opposite might say that that was all very well, but the proper remedy was that the State should buy those estates from the vendor. That might be the proper course to take, but nothing could be done until after a prolonged investigation in regard to the existence of those minerals. He thought that the course suggested by this Amendment would have the desired result, and those properties would be sold. He held that what would most probably happen would be that, where there was such property containing minerals, the State would buy out the mineral rights by paying the 25 per cent., or else the owner having sold the thing out and out, would buy the mineral rights back from the State, and come in not as a landlord, but as a man who brought capital and enterprise to the development of the mineral resources of Ireland.

Mr. McGOVERN said that never in any Act of Parliament passed by this House had there ever been inserted such an Amendment as this. It was an extraordinary proposition, and one which no man could define. It was absurd that landlords should come in, after the lapse of so many years after selling their property, and reap 25 per cent. in regard to any development of the mineral rights. A more extraordinary proposition was never before made in the House of Commons, and it only showed the grasping nature of the Irish landlords. He hoped the hon. and learned Member would go to a Division upon this Question.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said he did not propose to say more than a few words on this question. In a vast majority of cases these mineral rights were of a shadowy character, and it was quite unnecessary for the right hon. Gentleman to legislate for them, and they might very well drop this proposal altogether. There were certain cases where minerals were actually being worked, and other places where they were known to exist, as the right hon. Gentleman had said, in such a case, where a man was selling his land it was not unreasonable to say he should not hand over his minerals to the Land Commission. He conceded that. But the proper way to deal with such a case was not by a clause such as this, but by enabling the Land Commission to purchase these rights at the same time as the tenants purchased the land. The right hon. Gentleman said he was not in the position to suggest such a Resolution to the House. He should have seen that the Chancellor of the Exchequer put him in the position to make such a proposal. The object of this Bill was that the landlords, as such, should cease to exist, and the way to deal with them in this matter was not by a perpetual charge of 25 per per cent. but by a payment down.

Mr. WYNDHAM said the clause would inflict no loss or injustice upon any of the tenants. When the Bill left the House the whole of such property passed not to the tenants, but to the State. The hon. Gentleman said he was not in favour of land nationalisation, on such terms as that, without payments, but that the proper course for the Government would have been to have assessed the value of such minerals and to have paid a lump sum to the vendor. While he thought that the proposal of the hon. and learned Member would be the more logical solution of the question, he was by no means sure that in practice it would work better; he believed that the proposal now embodied in the clause was the most practical. What a flagrant act of injustice it would be to leave one landlord to develop his property and allow him to keep it untouched by this Act, and because his neighbour had no capital to work his minerals to take them away from him altogether. Under the proposal of the Government, if the minerals were of value, the 25 per cent. which they gave him would probably allow the landlord, not as a landlord but as a leader of industry, to come in and develop his property.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) regretted that the right hon. Gentleman did not intend to accept this Amendment. The matter was one which would create very grave discontent in Ireland. It had been said that if this Amendment was not carried a number of the landlords would not sell. He was in the other House during the Committee stage of this Bill, and he noticed that, in almost every Amendment proposed, the landlords threw down the gauntlet and threatened that if their Amendment was not conceded they would not sell the land. This Amendment bound the tenants under this clause for all time. He was strongly opposed to it, and considered that it would inflict a very grievous hardship on the tenants if passed. It was a retrograde proposal, and he hoped his hon. friend would insist upon pressing his Amendment.

*MR. O'DOHERTY said that although this Amendment might not affect the tenants as tenants it affected them as ratepayers. He did not anticipate so much trouble where the landlords owned the mines and minerals themselves as in the case where a head landlord or syndicate came in. Some time ago a company of capitalists arranged with Lord Leitrim to work certain minerals, but when the title was gone into it was found that the noble Lord had no title to give a lease, as the minerals were vested in Trinity College, who came down and claimed a higher rent than the noble Lord had agreed to lease the property for. It was not fair that any person should be able to come down and claim 25 per cent. under this Act. If this Amendment had to be carried they should limit the period to fifteen or twenty years.

MR. MURPHY contended that this Amendment was a distinct breach of faith on the part of the right hon. Gentleman. If there was dual ownership in land in Ireland, as had been stated, he thought the 25 per cent. should be equally divided between the landlord and the tenant. If the landlord was to receive 25 per cent. on all minerals developed that was a point which ought not to be left unregarded.

MR. KILBRIDE said the reasons put forward by the right hon. Gentleman in defence of this Amendment were the strongest reasons for its rejection. With regard to the coalfields of Leinster one deep seam of coal had been worked out long since, the second seam was also exhausted, and the whole chance of prosperity of those coalfields in the future depended upon whether there was a third seam or not, yet not a single proprietor in the district had expended as much as a £5 note in attempting to discover whether such a seam existed or not. Now, could it be hoped that any body of capitalists would prospect, in Leinster, for instance, if 25 per cent. of the profits was to go to the representatives of the existing landlord? No one wanted to deprive the landlord of the valuable property in which the tenant was not primarily concerned, but this Amendment was not confined to the landlords; this Amendment as it stood took into account the discovery of minerals sixty or seventy years hence. At that time the occupier would have become the absolute holder of his holding, and yet the representative of the landlord was to come down and take his 25 per cent. on a profit which he had done nothing to produce. If the right hon. Gentleman could not accept the figures suggested by his hon. friend, he hoped, at any rate, that the right hon. Gentleman would modify the percentage.

MR. WYNDHAM admitted that this was a very important subject. When landlords had known or believed that there were minerals under their land they had not sold. What was wanted was that purchase should go on, even in places where landlords believed, rightly or wrongly, that there were minerals under their land. It was suggested that the fact should be ascertained by some tribunal; but he believed that would be a costly process and would involve a great deal of delay. He would prefer not to make any change in the Amendment, because he believed that where a right was altogether prospective it could be bought up for a few £5 notes. When this proposal was first made in another place it was suggested that the royalty should be 50 per cent. but it was afterwards cut down to 25 per cent in order to prescribe these very valuable rights. The rights of the tenants had been preserved and no undue burden had been put upon posterity in Ireland. Probably in the future the successors to the landlords would take that 25 per cent. in shares in the company developing their estates.

Mr. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) said it was a most unfortunate thing that this Amendment had been introduced in the House of Lords. The Chief Secretary had stated three times that this clause did no injury to the tenants. He would point out that they were not there representing the tenants of Ireland exclusively. It was true that they represented the tenants throughout the greater part of Ireland, but they also claimed to be the representatives of the people. For his part, to some extent, he sympathised with the views of those in Ireland who had said that sufficient attention had not been paid, either by the promoters or the supporters of this Bill, to the interests of the nation at large in contradistinction to the interests of the tenants. He did not think the representatives of Ireland should allow this occasion to pass without declaring that by this proposal the interests of the tenants and the people of Ireland were involved and ought to be protected. It had been said that the real reason for this proposal was to give an inducement to the landlords to sell their estates. There were two methods of carrying out this object, one was by compulsory purchase, and the other was to offer such inducements to the landlords as would make it worth their while to sell. If he thought that the interests of the nation were not endangered by this Amendment he should at once agree to it as an additional inducement to the landlords to sell. But not only did he think this was unnecessary, but it was, in his opinion, letting pass by an opportunity of benefiting the national interests of Ireland which the Chief Secretary ought to consider first of all. Surely it was all a fiction that the landlords of Ireland would not sell under this Bill. With such inducements to sell 99 per cent. of the landlords would be absolute fools if they did not sell. Up to the present moment the landlords had never exercised those mineral rights which had been allowed to lie fallow during all the centuries they had been in Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman stated that the Land Commission would not be able through want of machinery to value those mineral rights. In this very clause it was contemplated that a purchase of those rights might be made by the Land Commission. Let the right hon. Gentleman put aside this humbug that the landlords would not sell, and that the Land Commission would not be able to estimate the value of those rights, because such questions were entirely unworthy of discussion upon such an occasion as this. The reason he opposed this Amendment was that he thought very little had been done to revive the industrial life of Ireland, or to provide employment for the people. If these mineral rights existed and were dealt with as was proposed by the Lords Amendment, the work which might otherwise benefit the labourers of Ireland would never be accomplished. That was what the experience of the past had taught them. If the Land Commission was forced to buy those mineral rights the Commission would be compelled to lease them out or work them, and this would provide work which was urgently needed by the labouring population of Ireland. Such a proposal as this was quite unworthy of the present Government, who had professed such benevolent intentions towards Ireland. They did not advocate that the landlords should not be paid for those rights where they existed. On the contrary, he thought they should be paid a fair price for them. It was impossible to estimate the price, and if a moral obligation was put upon the Estates Commissioners to buy out those rights, where they existed, for the public benefit, the case would be met, and it would be almost criminal on the part of the Government not to avail themselves of the present opportunity.

Sir JAMES HASLETT (Belfast, N.) said he was quite at a loss to understand the exact difficulty in accepting the Amendment. So far as he understood the clause as it stood, the mineral rights would pass from the landlord to the Commission, and the rights in the surface of the land would be dealt with and passed to the tenants. The Bill was therefore strong enough to protect the tenant in the acquirement of the soil he had for cultivation. Coming to the question of minerals, these would pass tentatively into the hands of the Commissioners. The Amendment dealt with what might be done afterwards, with the minerals, should development occur, and it reserved for the future the dealing with the value of these minerals as they should be developed and as they should be brought into a marketable condition. Under this Amendment the Land Commissioners would sell or otherwise dispose of those minerals at a rent or otherwise, and 25 per cent. of the accruing rent or otherwise would go to the original owner. He agreed that this was a national question. He agreed also that as between tenant and landlord it was a pure matter of sentiment, because a tenant had no right in the minerals at present, nor would he have any right under the Bill, because the rights passed to the Commissioners. The proposition had been put forward that they should now acquire those minerals, and that the State should buy them out. That was such a problematical thing that the moment they entered upon it they raised a barrier which no ingenuity of man could remove. Not long since he acted as arbitrator in connection with the acquirement of certain land, and the purpose of acquiring it was to acquire the minerals as well. There was nothing developed beyond a small sinking or boring. Skilled evidence was brought forward. The landlord by his witnesses proved up to £46,000; the parties buying proved down to £1,250. [A NATIONALIST: "How much did you give?"] He gave £2,600. He was outvoted, and an English umpire who heard all the evidence gave £2,230. How would they deal with that question? [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: "The way you did."] All they were now arguing about was the relative proportion of the profits. He wished to leave that to the future. That was the common-sense way to deal with the matter. Why deal with it at the present time? It was a problem that might not be solved for fifty or 100 years, although he hoped it would be solved in ten. The more mines they opened in Ireland the better. He would not grudge the present owners of the land 25 per cent. in order that the mines should be developed and the industries of Ireland correspondingly increased. He honestly trusted that this Amendment would not be lost sight of but voted upon loyally. He did not think it interfered with the present or future tenants to the smallest possible extent. He hoped the House would pass the Amendment in a good spirit.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool), Scotland) said he had always thought that if they scratched the Chief Secretary they would find out his mediævalism. If ever there was a proposal brought before the House that had the worst odour of mediæval absurdity, it was the proposal made by the right hon. Gentleman. This was an Amendment of the "Dead Hand." It was not a message of development to Ireland. The proposition was not to do something for to-morrow, for the present generation, or for their sons and grandsons, but for all future generations of the descendants of the landlords, far beyond the fourth generation of the Scriptures. It was a proposal that for all time they should have a first claim of 25 per cent. on the mineral development of Ireland. He had only to state the proposition to show its absolute and almost incredible absurdity. How did they know what would happen in an Irish landlord's family three generations from now? Some of them might be Dukes in the House of Lords, some might be paupers, some of them might be ranchers in the Southern States of America, and before it would be possible to proceed with the development of mines on estates in Ireland it would be necessary to look over the world to find out the fourth or fifth, and possibly later, generations of the families in order to give them 25 per cent. on the mineral developments. They were applying this principle to the undeveloped, undiscovered and problematical mines of Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman thought that unless this was done the sale of the land would be stopped. He had very little anxiety as to the stoppage of the sale of land in Ireland. The landlords had got far too good terms to reject them. He was rather surprised the other day to hear the right hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite, the Member for North Armagh, who was the grandson of a man who in the Irish Parliament voted against the Act of Union, say that it was his intention to take advantage of this Act on the first opportunity. He was surprised, because the right hon. and gallant Gentleman, who was supposed to be the apostle of no surrender, was going to surrender at the first opportunity.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: I have got no gold mines.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said the hon. Baronet who had spoken for the city of Belfast, was forgetful of the fact that there was a clause in the Bill which protected any mines at present in operation.

SIR JAMES HASLETT: I did not deal with mines in operation at all.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said if there were minerals which were not being worked, it was because the landlords had not the courage or enterprise to work them. [An hon. MEMBER: "Or the capital?"] Did anybody suppose, when money could be got for mines in Siberia and other quarters of the world, that, if there was any real chance of development in Ireland, a landlord could not come to the city of London and get money for that purpose? He had been present on platforms in Durham and other mining counties of England, and had heard representatives of the miners declare that it was impossible they could be adequately remunerated so long as the system of royalties to the landowners remained. He did not speak with authority, but he understood that the mining royalties in this country were far below 25 per cent. This was a monstrous and incredible claim which the House of Lords, taking advantage of the late period of the session, had put into the Bill, and he was sorry the right hon. Gentleman found himself compelled to support it.

MR. HEMPHILL said he agreed with the Chief Secretary that this Amendment did not directly affect the interest of the tenants under the Bill. But that was not the question the House had to decide. The effect of the Amendment would be to give an additional bonus to the landlords. It was conceived and carried out in the same spirit as the proposal to make the percentage bonus 15 instead of 12. The proposal appeared to him to be both unjust and absurd. That was not his objection. He thought the proposal altogether inconsistent with the compromise made in this House. There was a good deal of discussion when the Bill was passing through Committee about minerals, and the reason for the clause, finally adopted, was that this valuable asset, as it might turn out, should be reserved to the Land Commission as trustees for the public benefit in Ireland. Now there was annexed an inconsistent proviso—namely, instead of the money going to the Land Commission, in full, there was to be 25 per cent. deducted from the rent or purchase-money, or profits, as the case might be of those mines. What could be more unreasonable than that? Why not come forward if they had mines and dispose of them at once to the Commissioners? In fact, he had no doubt that this Amendment would impede the development of the mineral industries of Ireland, because no man could afford to let the land if it was known that there was to be a deduction of 25 per cent. for the mineral rights. If his hon. friend went to a Division he would vote with him.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) thought that this Amendment of the Lords was absurd. He had said before that this was a landlords' Bill, and the best proof of that was that the House of Lords had not been able to improve it. Mr. Michael Davitt had described all those eloquent commendations of the Bill as "flummery and flapdoodle," and the same might be said of the glowing periods that afternoon. He hoped that the tenants would not buy at the ridiculous prices provided in the Bill. Who was hit by this particular Amendment? If the tenant bought under the Bill the mineral rights went over to the Land Commission, and the persons to be hit would be the company promoters, the Whittaker-Wrights and the Hooleys.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 102; Noes, 70. Division List, No. 261.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A (*Worc.*
Chamberlayne, T. (*South'mpt'n*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S*)
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kimber, Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants., Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Majendie, James A. H.
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Rt Hn. A. G. (*Bute*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Seely, Charles H. (*Lincoln*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H (*Sheffield*
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley, H. (*Ash.-und.-Lyne*
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Boland, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carew, James Laurence
Clancy, John Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Doogan, P. C.
Dunn, Sir William
Farrell, James Patrick
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Henderson, Arthur (*Durham*)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh're*
Joyce, Michael
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, John
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, South*)
O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Connor, James (*Wicklow, W.*
O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Rea, Russell
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*)
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n N.*
Tully, Jasper
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*).

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. O'Doherty and Mr. M'Govern.

MR. McGOVERN said he wished to restrict the operation of the Lords Amendment until the year 1920. The Bill as it left the House of Commons was a landlords' relief Bill; but this new clause made it go further than the most sanguine landlord ever expected it to go. In no other Bill which came before the House was there such a clause, and he asked the right hon. Gentleman to limit it.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 8, after the word 'same,' to insert the words, 'until the year 1920.'"—(*Mr. M'Govern.*)

MR. T. M. HEALY asked the right hon. Gentleman to give the people of Ireland some chance. This was a proposal by the Duke of Manchester, and if it had been confined to his own particular estate that might have mitigated its severity. But none of the other landlords asked for it. He respectfully asked that these mineral rights should not be put in pawn for a number of men who were not yet born. It was most unfair to say this should go on for ever. It laid an embargo on the industry of the country. Let them say "during their lifetime," or their son's lifetime, but do not let the Government part with these rights for ever.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB assured the hon. and learned Member he was under a great misapprehension if he thought this clause was put in by the desire of a small number of landlords. It represented the unanimous opinion of the landlords.

MR. WYNDHAM said every body had agreed that something must be done to meet the case of the landlords who possessed minerals which were not being worked. Was land purchase to be postponed until some one offered 100 per cent. for this property, or were arrangements to be made to purchase this property for one quarter what somebody else was ready to give? As the landlords had not pressed their views on questions affecting the tenants, he submitted that this Amendment might be withdrawn.

MR. JOHN REDMOND regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had not been able to make a concession to the universal feeling of the Irish benches. The opinion just taken showed the serious view taken upon this matter, but as the right hon. Gentlemen had made up his mind to make no further concession, he saw no object in taking another Division, but he would suggest that the Amendment be withdrawn.

Amendment to the Lords Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In lines 22 and 23, leave out the words 'disposed of or,'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 8, line 28, after the word 'thereby,' to insert the following sub-section: (6) Any person authorised by, or in pursuance of, the last preceding sub-section, to enter upon land for the purpose of exercising a sporting right shall have the same authority to prosecute for trespass in pursuit of game or fish as if he were the owner of that land,'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said he would agree to the Amendment with the substitution of the word "occupier" for "owner."

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 6, to leave out the word 'owner,' and insert the word 'occupier.'"—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'owner' stand part of the Lords Amendment."

MR. T. M. HEALY said it was a great shame. The Government, he ventured to think, were straining matters to a great extent, and he ventured to say the business would not stand the strain of this Amendment, and the result would be the entire destruction of game in the country. Without the consent of the tenants, sporting rights were absolutely worthless, and yet Amendments were piled up in the landlords' interest, until it was provided that a tenant should have a horde of persons on his land, and every one of those persons could prosecute his neighbour. For that was what it came to.

MR. TULLY said it was a most monstrous provision to put into any Act of Parliament, and the one effect it would have would be to help to clear the country of game.

MR. McGOVERN said it was disgraceful that any person should have a right to prosecute a person whose offence was walking over his own land.

Amendment to Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 8, line 36, after the word 'Commissioners' to insert the following sub-section: '(2) Where those Commissioners refuse to consent to the vesting of any such monument in them, the Land Commission may, with the consent of the Council of the County within which the monument is situate, make an order vesting the monument in that council, and Sub-section 2 of Section 19 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, shall thereupon apply.'"

"In page 9, line 25, after the word 'Acts' to insert the words 'to tenants.'"

"In page 11, line 4, after the word 'person' to insert the words 'not under disability'; line 13, after '1896' to insert the words 'which interest shall be at a rate not less than 3½ per cent. per annum.'"

"In page 12, line 3, to leave out the word 'had' and insert the word 'have'; line 6, to leave out the word 'of' and to insert the words 'mentioned in.'"

the next Amendments, read a second time and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 13, line 9, to leave out from the word 'mentioned' to the end of the sub-section, and insert the words 'any question of law may, if the Estate Commissioners think fit, and shall on the application of any person interested, be referred for the decision of a Judicial Commissioner, unless the Estates Commissioners certify in writing that the application is frivolous. (2) Any person aggrieved by any refusal of the Commissioners so to refer any such question may, in the manner prescribed by rules of Court, and within the time prescribed by the Judicial Commissioner, apply to the High Court, or any Judge thereof, for an order requiring the Commissioners so to refer the question, and the decision of the High Court or Judge upon any such application shall be final,'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. WYNDHAM said he was prepared to agree, with an exception. He moved to leave out all words after "of Court" in Sub-section 2 in order to insert "under Sub-section (1) of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act, 1877, etc."

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 7, after the word 'Court' to leave out all words to end of Sub-section 2, and insert the words 'under Sub-section 1 of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act 1877.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment to Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 13, line 13, leave out the words 'agents or solicitors' and insert the words 'land agents, solicitors, or land clerks.'"

"In line 15, after the word 'nomination' to insert the words 'may be negotiated.'"

"In line 19, after the word 'Commission' to insert the following sub-section:—'(12) Where in the case of the sale of an estate to persons other than the Land Commission an agent has been employed by the vendor to negotiate the sale, such sum as may be sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners may, with the consent of such vendor, be paid to that agent out of the purchase money as part of the costs connected with the sale'"

"In page 15, line 14, to leave out the words 'or order as the case may be' and insert the words 'for sale.'"

"In line 17, to leave out the words 'Estate Commissioners' and insert the words 'Land Commission.'"

"In line 19, after the word 'money' to insert the following sub-section: 'For the purpose of giving effect to this enactment the Land Commission may, if they think fit, in the case of a terminable charge, satisfy the same by the investment in any securities in which trustees are by law authorised to invest trust money of a capital sum the annual income of which will be sufficient to satisfy the annual amount of the charge.'"

"In page 16, line 30, after the word 'prescribed' to insert the words 'as if purchase money distributable under this section were money paid or deposited under those sections.'"

the next Amendments, read a second time and agreed to

MR. WYNDHAM said a consequential Amendment should come in here. Clause 24, page 13, line 36, at the end insert, "Any charge or incumbrance may be paid off notwithstanding any direction, proviso or covenant contained in any deed or instrument to the contrary."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 24, page 13, line 36, at end, to insert the words 'Any charge or incumbrance may be paid off notwithstanding any direction, proviso or covenant contained in any deed or instrument to the contrary.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 16, line 37, to leave out the word 'the' and insert the word 'a.'"

"In page 16, line 38, after the word 'appeal' to insert the words 'or any question other than one of law.'"

"In page 17, lines 4 and 5, to leave out the words 'making a claim upon' and insert the words 'whose claim has been so attached to.'"

"In page 17, line 11, after the first word 'payable' to insert the words 'out of the purchase money, or recoverable under any agreement or covenant,'"

the next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 17, line, 13, after the word 'advances' to insert the words 'provided that in case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts any charge or incumbrance thereon may be paid off notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or other instrument to the contrary: Provided that this sub-section shall not apply in any case where the Land Commission are satisfied that it is not owing to any act or default of such person that his title is not established and the amount of his claim invested as aforesaid.'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. WYNDHAM moved to omit down to the word "contrary."

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 1, after the word 'advances' to leave out the words 'provided that in case of the sale of an estate under the Land Purchase Acts any charge or incumbrance thereon may be paid off notwithstanding any direction, proviso, or covenant contained in any deed or other instrument to the contrary.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment to the Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 17, at end of line 23, after the word 'Act' to insert the following sub-section: '(4) Notwithstanding anything in this section, any vendor or incumbrancer may apply to the Court to invest the purchase money, pending distribution, in any of the securities from time to time authorised by law for the investment of trust funds.' And also insert the following clause: 'Where a person who would otherwise be entitled to sell land under the Land Purchase Acts is a lunatic, the Lord Chancellor may order the land to be sold as if the sale was required for one of the purposes mentioned in Section 63 of the Lunacy Regulation (Ireland) Act, 1871, and that section shall apply accordingly.' In line 39, after the word 'equal' insert the words 'half-yearly or.'"

"In page 19, line 28, to leave out the words 'in so far as any' and insert the word 'where.'"

"In page 19, line 29, to leave out the words 'to purchasers to be repaid by means of purchase annuities.'"

"In page 19, line 41, to leave out the words 'purchase of the land' and insert the words 'vesting of land in the Commission.'"

"In page 20, lines 17 and 25, to leave out the words 'repayable by means of purchase annuities' and insert the words 'on which such ten shillings per cent. is payable by the Land Commission.'"

"In page 21, line 3, to leave out the words 'eight' and insert 'seven.'"

"In page 21, line 36, after the word 'made' to insert the words 'and may only be varied.'"

"In page 22, line 27, after the word 'Commission' to insert the words 'direct the,'"

the next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 25, line 11, after the word 'price,' to insert the words, 'or to an estate so circumstanced in respect of which an absolute order for sale by the Land Judge was in force at the date of the passing of the Act.'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that by way of preventing the estates being taken out of the Land Courts they had provided that estates in the Land Courts should get a bonus where a receiver existed, but they would not get a bonus where the estate was so encumbered that it was sold practically without the owner's consent. While he believed that the Government had tried to meet the difficulty, he thought it would be found that the provision they had made was not at all sufficient. This was a matter which in many cases would involve great hardship to the tenant. Very many of the Court tenants were in the occupation of evicted farms, that was to say, they were the old tenants of the land who had been put back on the land as Court tenants. In order to sell these estates in the future a new tenancy would have to be constituted, and only a limited sum could be advanced; and, therefore any estate taken out of the Court for the purpose of getting the bonus would involve the creation of new tenancies. He was aware that the Land Court Judge did not like his proposal, but that was no reason why the House should not insist upon it. Although the Government had now provided that the estates which were so embarrassed were not to get a bonus, he ventured to think that as there would be nobody to contradict the owner he would declare that he was not embarrassed, and, in other ways, would try to show that the estate was not encumbered for the purpose of capturing the bonus. The result of this would be that a very large number of estates would be taken out of the Courts to the prejudice of the tenants. The Government had tried to meet the point, but they had not met it successfully, and in future owners would join together with others interested to take the estate out of Court in order to capture the bonus, and by so doing they would deprive the tenants of the amount of advance which they would otherwise be entitled to. He could see plainly when it was possible to get an Amendment and when it was not, and it was evident that some sort of invisible fetters enveloped the Chief Secretary, who appeared to have entered into some agreement upon this question. The House of Commons and the representatives of the tenants had got absolutely nothing in return for the many advantages the landlords had got by this Bill. They had got no *quid pro quo* for all those rights which had been given to the landlord.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 25, line 32, after the word 'in,' to insert the words: '(*a*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon rates or taxes levied under the authority of any Act of Parliament or Provisional Order by any municipal corporation or other local authority in the United Kingdom which shall be authorised to borrow on such security; (*b*) Ground rents arising out of hereditaments in the United Kingdom and not exceeding in amount one-fourth part of the annual value at a rackrent of the premises out of which such ground rents issue; (*c*) Debentures or mortgages of railway companies in the United Kingdom incorporated by Act of Parliament; (*d*) Stocks or shares of any tramway or light railway interest upon which is guaranteed from or charged upon under the Tramways (Ireland) Acts; (*e*) Bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon any investments in which trustees are authorised by this or any other Act to investment funds; (*f*) Debentures or fully-paid shares or stocks of any railway.' Provided that the sufficiency of any such investments to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust, shall be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustees under this Act."

the next Amendment read a second time.

Drafting Amendment made.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 26, line 3, after the word 'section,' to insert the words' (4) In the case of all proceedings in relation to any lands sold under the Land Purchase Acts, or any charges thereon, or any moneys realised thereby, if it appears to the Court that a trustee is, or may be, personally liable for any breach of trust, whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the passing of this Act, but has acted honestly and reasonably, and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust, and for omitting to obtain the directions of the Court in the matter in which he committed such breach, then the Court may relieve the trustee, either wholly or partly, from personal liability for the same.'"

"In page 26, lines 39 and 40, to leave out the words 'by the Lord Lieutenant.'"

the next Amendments, read a second time, time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 27, line 11, after the word 'require,' to insert the following sub-section: '(14) The powers conferred on the Land Commission by the foregoing provisions of this section may be exercised by the Land Judge in any case where the purchase money of land sold under the Land Purchase Acts is or has been distributed by him, and those provisions shall apply accordingly with the substitution of the Land Judge for the Land Commission.' "

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Drafting Amendment made.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

" In page 27, line 12, after the word ' by,' to insert the words ' the Land Judge and.' "

" In page 27, line 28, to leave out from the word ' that ' to the first word ' in ' in line 32."

" In page 27, line 34, after the word ' county,' to insert the words ' the said limitation may, subject to the other limitations in the Land Purchase Acts, be exceeded where the Land Commission consider that a larger advance may be sanctioned to any purchaser without prejudice to the wants and circumstances of other persons residing in the neighbourhood.' "

" In page 28, in lines 3 and 4, to leave out the words ' under the circumstances aforesaid,' and insert the words ' where the Land Commission consider it expedient under the circumstances mentioned in the preceding sub-section.' "

" In page 28, line 25, after the word ' after,' to insert the words ' they become aware of.' "

" In page 28, line 34, after the word ' otherwise,' to insert the following sub-section : ' (2) Not more than one person shall, without the consent of the Land Commission, be registered as the owner of the holding under Part IV. of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891.' "

" In page 28, line 40, after the word ' holding,' to insert the words ' or part thereof.' "

" In page 28, line 41, after the word ' holding,' to insert the words ' or part.' "

" In page 29, line 2, after the word ' part,' to insert the words ' the consent of the Land Commission under this enactment may, in the case of a charge created by a will, be given at any time whether before or after the death of the testator.' "

" In page 29, line 3, to leave out the words ' a holding ' and insert the words ' the holding executed after the commencement of this Act.' "

" In page 29, line 7, after the word ' chargeant,' to insert the words ' or, in the case of a charge created by a will or codicil, within six months from the death of the testator.' "

" In page 29, line 12, to leave out the word ' whether.' "

" In page 29, line 13, after the word ' instance,' to insert the words ' or with the consent,' and leave out the words ' or at the suit of an incumbrancer.' "

" In page 29, line 14, after the word ' sold,' to insert the words ' subject to the purchase annuity (if any) and any charge under any Public Works Acts, but '; and after the word ' all ' to insert the word ' other.' "

" In page 29, line 15, to leave out from the word ' incumbrances ' to the word ' of,' in line 16."

" In page 29, line 24, to leave out the word ' require ' and insert the words ' request to be furnished with.' "

" In page 29, line 26, to leave out the words ' charged with an an annual sum payable in respect of ' and insert the words ' in respect of which.' "

" In page 29, line 27, after the word ' Acts ' to insert the words ' has been made.' "

the next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

" In page 31, after Clause 58, to insert the following clause : ' (1) Where, in the course of proceedings for the sale under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, or the Land Purchase Acts, of an estate it appears that the owner or any tenants of holdings on the estate are in occupation of portions of an adjoining estate, and that the owner or any tenants of holdings on the adjoining estate are in occupation of portions of the first-mentioned estate, whether such exchange of occupation is the result of an agreement or is occasioned by the alteration of the course of a stream, or otherwise, the Land Judge or the Judicial Commissioner, as the case may be, may, if he thinks it expedient, with the consent of the owners of the respective estates, make an order ratifying the exchange, and the order, or a map or plan annexed thereto, shall show the lands given and taken in exchange respectively. (2) The land taken upon any such exchange shall be deemed to be held by the same tenure, and shall, without any conveyance or other assurance in relation thereto, go and enure to and upon the same uses and trusts and be subject to the same rents, conditions, charges, and incumbrances, as the land given upon such exchange would have stood limited upon and been subject to if the order had not been made ; and the land given upon such exchange shall be deemed to be held by the same tenure, and shall without any conveyance or other assurance in relation thereto, go and enure to and upon the same uses and trusts and be subject to the same rents, conditions, charges, and incumbrances as the land taken upon such exchange would have stood limited upon and been subject to if the order had not been made. (3) All rights and remedies for recovery of rents payable in respect of either portions of the lands so exchanged shall be exercisable in respect of, and may be pursued against, the lands given or taken upon such exchange, as the case may be, in the same manner as they might theretofore have been exercised or pursued against the lands originally liable thereto.' "

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said this was a valuable and useful clause, but he ventured to suggest that in the third line from the end they should omit the words "with the consent of the owners" and substitute the words "or on notice in the prescribed manner." Very often the exchange had taken place thirty or forty years ago. In selling an estate of this kind it was advisable that no further expense should be piled up. He suggested that notice to the owner should be given in the prescribed manner. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment.

"In line 11, after the word 'of' to insert the words 'or of notice in the prescribed manner to.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WYNDHAM said he was willing to accept that Amendment if the hon. and learned Member would consent to alter the words so as to read "or of notice in the prescribed manner to the owner and giving them an opportunity of being heard."

MR. T. M. HEALY said he would accept those words, and would move his Amendment in that form.

Amendment to the Lords Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment.

"In line 11, after the word 'owners' to insert the words 'or of notice in the prescribed manner to the owners and giving them an opportunity of being heard.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*).

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Consequential Amendment made to the Bill.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 32, line 18, to leave out the word 'the' and insert the word 'a.'"

"In page 32, line 36, after the word 'balance' to insert the following sub-section: '(3) Where in the like case the Court is satisfied that the land sold is entitled to be indemnified against any claim in respect of a superior interest by other lands, and that the other lands are a sufficient security therefor, the Court may, upon such terms (if any) and in such manner as appears equitable, exclusively charge the whole of the superior interest upon the other lands. (4 The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply with the necessary modifications, to any superior interest or portion thereof affecting the land sold, or to the redemption money of such interest or portion, as if the same were land sold.'"

"In page 33, lines 12 to 14, to leave out Sub-section 3."

"In page 33" line 17, to leave out the words 'therein mentioned' and insert the words 'of a superior interest.'"

"In page 33, line 22, to leave out the words 'for the nonpayment of any sum due to them.'"

"In page 34, line 6, after the word 'deposit' to insert the following sub-section: '(3) Where any land upon which portion of a purchase annuity has been charged by the Land Commission is conveyed to the proprietor of a holding subject to a purchase annuity, that holding and the land so conveyed shall be deemed one holding, and the said annuity and portion shall be payable in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.'"

"In page 34, line 6, after the word 'deposit' to insert the following sub-section: '(3) Where any land upon which portion of a purchase annuity has been charged by the Land Commission is conveyed to the proprietor of a holding subject to a purchase annuity, that holding and the land so conveyed shall be deemed one holding, and the said annuity and portion shall be payable in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.'"

"In page 34, line 42, after the word 'may' to insert the words 'on the application of any person interested or without such application with the consent of the Lord Chancellor,' and to leave out the words 'such authority and' and to insert the words 'the Judicial Commissioner if he thinks fit.'"

"In page 35, line 17, after the word 'cent.' to insert the words 'per annum.'"

"In page 35, line 40, after the word 'the' to insert the words 'trustees of the.'"

the next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 36, line 15, after the word 'vendor' to insert the words 'or to the trustees of a settlement.'"—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 36, line 18, after the word 'less' to insert the following sub-section: '(2) Sub-section 4 of Section 3 of this Act shall apply in the case of any land in respect of which an advance is made in pursuance of this section.'"

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 2, after the word 'four' to insert the words 'and Sub-section 6.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment to Lords Anendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 36, line 35, after the word 'cutting' to insert the words 'or making.'"

"In page 38, line 2, after the word 'Board' to insert the words 'in lieu of the member of the Land Commission nominated under Subsection 1 of Section 34 of the Act of 1891.' And also to insert the following clause:—'Section 18 of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, which makes provision with respect to congested districts counties, is hereby repealed.'"

the next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 38, line 36, to leave out the word 'any' and insert the words 'subject to the provisions of this Act any.'"

the next Amendment disagreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 38, line 38, to leave out the word 'appeal' and to insert the words 'apply for a re-hearing.'"

the next Amendment read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 39, line 5, after the word 'assessor,' to insert the words 'who shall hear the evidence and inspect the holding, and report thereon to the Judicial Commissioner.'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. WYNDHAM moved to insert, after the first word "and," the words "on the application of either of the parties."

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 2, after the word 'and' to insert the words 'on the application of either of the parties.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment to Lords Amendment agreed to.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved an Amendment to provide that the report would be made public. As the Bill stood no provision was made for the report of the assessor being made public, and thus one man was virtually made arbiter. His report, at all events, ought not to be secret. He moved to add, after the words "report thereon to the Judicial Commissioner," the words "in the prescribed manner."

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 3, at end, to add the words 'in the prescribed manner'."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WYNDHAM said Part III of the Bill had no very ardent supporter, either in this or the other House. It was held to be a necessary adjunct of the far larger facilities given for promoting the purchase of land in Ireland. He was prepared to accept the Amendments made in another place because they did not effect changes in the tribunal. He understood that a great many of the landlords and tenants of Ireland preferred that there should be a re-hearing, and that they were not satisfied with Part III. as it stood. He had met that view, but he was not able to attempt the further revision of Part III. at the eleventh hour.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked whether the report would be a public document.

MR. MCGOVERN said the tenants were in great danger of being deprived of the benefits of the Act of 1881.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that this clause would create dismay and consternation unless the Report was made a public document. He suggested the addition of the following words: "and such Report should be communicated to the parties."

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.) said this was a matter of great consequence to the tenants, and he hoped the Chief Secretary would accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for North Louth.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL, Dublin University) said the second suggestion of the hon. Member for North Louth would defeat its own object. It would be better to take the first suggestion, and add the words "in the prescribed manner."

MR. T. M. HEALY said he would take that.

Amendment to the Lords Amendment, agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

MR. WYNDHAM asked the leave of the House to go back and rectify a slip. He ought to have asked the house to disagree with the following Lords Amendment—

"In page 38, line 36, to leave out the word 'any' and to insert the words 'subject to the provisions of this Act any.'"

Lords Amendment disagreed to.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be entered on the journals as having been disagreed with in the first instance.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 39, lines 6 to 8, leave out Sub-section 3."

the next Amendment, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 39, line 9, after the word 'appeal' to insert the words 'or on any re-hearing (except in cases where the valuation does not exceed £20).'"

the next Amendment, read a second time, amended, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 39, line 10, after the word 'which' to insert the words 'could have been but'"

the next Amendment, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment.

"In page 39, lines 12 and 15, after the word 'Commissioner' to insert the words 'who hears the Appeal'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. ATKINSON moved to insert after the words "the Appeal," the words "or re-hearing."

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 2, after the word 'Appeal' to add the words 'or re-hearing'."—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment to Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 39, line 20, after the word 'made' to insert the words 'by the Judicial Commissioners with the approvalof the Lord Chancellor'"

"In page 39, line 22, to leave out from the word 're-hearings' to the end of the clause, and insert the words 'and those rules shall, among other things, provide for an *ad valorem* scale of fees to be paid on notices of appeal or re-hearing.'"

"In page 39, line 24, to leave out the words 'Land Commission' and insert the words 'Judicial Commissioner.'"

Leave out Clause 87.

"In page 40, line 17, after the word 'reason' to insert the word 'solely.'"

"In page 40, line 19, to leave out the word 'judicially' and insert the words 'in the absence of other provision.'"

"In page 40, line 22, after the word 'apply' to insert the words 'as from the commencement of this Act.'"

"In page 40, line 30, after the word '1881, to insert the words 'or under that section'"

"In page 40, line 38, to leave out the words 'the representation' and insert the words 'any representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, affecting him.'"

the next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

"In page 41, lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'a Court of Summary Jurisdiction' and insert the words 'the County Court Judge.'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that as this Amendment did not appear on the Paper, it seemed that the Government did not wish to propose it at all The clause as it originally stood was really of very little use to the labourers, and that little use had been minimised still further by the change made in the House of Lords. He supposed that Clause 93 would have to be accepted with this unfotunate change, but he believed that when the Chief Secretary introduced a Labourers Bill next year, he would find that the House of Lords was wrong.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that he wished to acknowledge the loyal way in which the Government, after a great struggle, had re-instated this clause. The Chief Secretary was to be congratulated in re-instating the clause, although it did not mean very much.

MR. MURPHY said that the labourers of Ireland had nothing to thank the Irish landlords for, because they had all voted against this clause.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Lords Amendments.

"In page 41, line 30, to leave out the words 'must either be' and insert the words 'is either.' Line 31, to leave out the word 'be' and insert the word 'is.'"

"In page 42, line 6, to leave out from the word 'Commission' to the word 'the' in line 8, and insert the words 'in the manner directed by Sub-section 6 of Section 29 of the Act of 1891.' The expression 'demesne' includes any mansion, house or other buildings thereon. The expression 'vesting order' includes fiat. Line 34, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'or enactment.' and after the word 'amending' to insert the word 'applying.'"

"In page 44, line 22, after the first word 'three' to insert the words 'in Sub-section 1 of Section 34, from 'a member' to 'forestry' and the words 'the Chief Secretary when absent shall be replaced by the Under Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant,'"

the next Amendments, read a second time, and agreed to.

Ordered, "That a Committee be appointed to draw up Reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments to the Bill."

Committee nominated of—Mr. Attorney General for Ireland, Mr. Sergeant Hemphill, Mr. John Redmond, Colonel Saunderson, and Mr. Wyndham.

Committee to withdraw immediately.

Three to be the quorum. — (*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Mr. William Redmond.

THE CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time to-morrow.

IRISH LAND BILL.

Reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords.

CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY AND INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY (AGREEMENTS).

Motion made, and Question proposed— "That the Agreement dated the 30th day of July 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the Cunard Steamship Company, Limited, printed in Command Paper No. 1703, and the Agreement dated the 1st day of August, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the International Mercantile Marine Company and others, printed in Command Paper No. 1704, be approved."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said that he had anticipated that the President of the Board of Trade would have said something in support of the Motion, but he concluded from the silence of the right hon. Gentleman that he wished to hear objections first. There was some reason to complain that this very important subject, which had been the subject of observation and Question during the whole year, should have been kept back to the ultimate hours of a very busy session. As concisely as possible he would confine himself to two or three points in the agreements which had relation to the Admiralty. He took it that the agreement meant that the merchant cruiser policy was abandoned—namely, the system of paying subsidies in time of peace for certain ships being placed at the disposal of the Government in time of war. In substitution of that system they were going to have a new system whereby there would be made in time of peace agreements for the hire or purchase of vessels in time of war. On neither of these points had he any hostile criticism to offer. He was quite satisfied, and he believed the House generally was satisfied, with the declaration made by the Admiralty that they had no intention of any longer giving subsidies in time of peace for vessels to be used in time of war. The Government of which he was a Member, in so far as it was responsible for the initiation of that policy, adopted it only subject to reconsideration by the Admiralty; but the Government did not last long enough to be in a position to give that reconsideration.

With reference to the Cunard agreement, the special part of it was that the Government was to make a loan of £2,600,000 to the company for the purpose of enabling it to build two ships of large dimensions, and further, when the ships were built, the Government was going to pay the company a sort of rent or subsidy of £150,000 a year. That was a kind of bounty which involved quite a new departure on behalf of the Government. He wished for a moment to dwell on the peculiar financial effects of this proposal. The State was about to pay to this particular company more than the whole of its nominal capital. The nominal capital was £1,600,000, and its own valuation of its fleet was under £2,000,000. The present market value of the shares did not, however, amount to more than £1,200,000. To a concern of this kind they were going to make a loan amounting to £2,600,000—£1,000,000 above the nominal capital value, and about double the real capital value of the concern. That was a feature of the agreement which the House would do well to ponder over. Further, the loan was to be at 2¾ per cent. The Admiralty had evidently taken the advice of the Committee presided over by the noble Lord, and, although having no doubt a financial expert, it had no shipbuilding expert. The Report of that Committee suggested that loans might be made to shipping companies at lower rates than they would otherwise be able to obtain them. In the ordinary way, if a company like the Cunard Company wanted a loan they would have to pay 5 per cent.; but the Admiralty let them have it at 2¾ per cent. In other words, the company received State credit to the extent of 2¼ per cent., which was really a bonus amounting to nearly £60,000 a year, and to almost 4 per cent. on the nominal capital of the company. The amount of £150,000 which was to be given as hire to the company would pay nearly 10 per cent., on their nominal capital. Lastly, the loan was to be repaid by annual instalments, extending over a period of twenty years. The instalments would therefore amount to £130,000, and to that should be added interest amounting to £35,000. The Cunard Company would therefore pay the Government £165,000 for twenty years. The Government would pay £150,000, and the net balance over and above would be £15,000; and for the payment of that sum per annum, this particular company, selected by the Government, would become the possessors of two of the most enormous vessels of modern times, having a capital value of £2,600,000. He thought that the financial features of the agreement certainly required some consideration from an assembly of business men. A transaction of such magnitude called from the Government, and especially from the Admiralty, for some defence.

He wished to know how far it was intended to extend this new policy, and if the two ships were to be the whole of the new fleet of subsidised cruisers? If two such ships were not sufficient, how many more would the country be called upon to supply? This policy was hinted at in the Memorandum of the First Lord of the Admiralty, which was laid before Parliament at the beginning of the session. It was only fair to say that speed was laid down by the First Lord of the Admiralty as a first condition to be attained under the new system. He declared that it was intolerable that there should be any ship afloat which was faster than any ship under the control of the Admiralty; and it was for this superiority of speed that the new system was proposed. There were, however, certain points which the Government ought to be able to make out to the satisfaction of the House. First of all, that the Admiralty could not itself build ships capable of maintaining the speed required to catch the fastest merchant ships. He would, of course, receive with respect what the Admiralty said on that matter, but he would receive with astonishment and surprise a statement to the effect that it was beyond the power of the Admiralty to design and build ships fast enough to catch merchant ships. Another point on which the House ought to be satisfied was that the the British mercantile marine could not be trusted to maintain its superiority in point of speed without the offer of special inducements from the Admiralty. Were the Admiralty and the British mercantile marine about to acknowledge, for the first time in history, that they were unable to cope with the fastest vessels of the foreign mercantile marine? He could hardly suppose that that would be said on behalf of the British mercantile marine. He would, however, assume that neither the Admiralty nor the British mercantile marine could furnish the speed required, but if these propositions were made good, it would then be necessary to show that the speed required could not be obtained in a merchant ship except at the cost of the vessels provided for in this agreement. The Government were bound to show that a merchant ship could not be obtained to maintain a speed of 24½ knots unless it were of 30,000 tons, and cost £1,300,000.

This new proposal was in part, at least, a consequence of the panic brought about last year by the sudden creation of the Morgan combine. That combine did not now seem to be so formidable as when it was first established, and those who were alarmed by it last year were now able to sleep comfortably in their beds. It was to that panic also that he attributed a good many of the sentimental features both in this agreement and in the collateral agreement with the Morgan combine; the provisions with regard to British ships, the British flag, and British officers and men appeared to be traceable to that cause. The company, having made this bargain with the Government, undertook to do certain things of a non-naval character, and how they could be made part of a business contract, such as that under consideration, passed his comprehension. The company undertook to carry on its own business to the best advantage. That was an extraordinary consideration to enter into a formal contract. Another provision was that it should not unduly raise the freights or charges for the carriage of goods in any of its services What was "unduly" raising freights? Why was this restriction confined to goods? He would have thought that the passenger traffic deserved some consideration in that connection. A further provision was that in fixing such frieghts and charges no undue preference was to be given as against British subjects. What was "undue preference" was a perfectly open question. As to the expense of maintaining a ship at these high rates of speed, the representative of the Admiralty ought to make some answer to the assertion that it was not by any means clear that the rate of speed provided for by this agreement was uncommercial. Considerations had been advanced showing that at the present time, particularly on the Atlantic route, high speed might be a commercial speed, and although there might be a loss in particular instances, yet the fact of possessing such vessels made the fleet, as a whole, pay better than if the big vessels were not in it.

With regard to the agreement with the Morgan combine to which the House was invited to give its approval, he presumed the Motion under discussion was rendered necessary by the rules of the House relating to the mail service. If anybody desired to have his mind reassured as to the Morgan combine he had only to read this agreement. The only objection he had to it was that it was a bargain between the British Government and a foreign Government, and that might be said to be a sentimental objection. The agreement undertook on the part of the Government that this so-called International Company should have what might be termed most-favoured-nation treatment; in other words, the Admiralty were going to treat them on even terms with other shipping companies, and they in turn came under certain restrictions and covenants which, so far as legal contracts went, would keep the ships all British, and maintain them under the British flag for the term of the agreement. There were also incidental terms as to the manning and officering of the ships. He had nothing to say by way of objection to those parts of the agreement, or. indeed to any portion of the agreement, because, as he understood it, the position was this: The existing Oceanic Steam Company agreement would have to run its natural course, and when it and all the others expired a new agreement would come into force, which would not involve subsidies, but which would involve a right to take over their ships on terms to be agreed upon. The Morgan combine, if it had any element of danger in it before, was reduced to harmlessness by this agreement, to which he imagined everybody was prepared to assent. But the Cunard agreement, the remarkable financial effect of which he had endeavoured to describe, was a totally different matter, and it was to that that the attention of the Committee ought to be mainly directed. He hoped a full and complete defence on that agreement—or, at any rate, of the portion involving the payment of £2,600,000 by way of loan for the building of two ships, and the yearly rent of £150,000. simply because they had agreed to build those ships, would be forthcoming. He was not aware of any similar provision in any legislation except the somewhat peculiar clauses in the Irish Land Act by which an Irish landlord was able to sell his estate and be paid by State money, and then to buy it back with the use of State credit. The question would have to be asked why the Cunard Company had been selected for this remarkable subvention, and also whether there were to be any more of these ships, and if so, how many? If these questions were satisfactorily answered, there then arose the totally different question raised by the Amendment of the hon. Member for West Islington, viz.: Why, if the Government were obliged to resort to the merchant navy for the kind of ship they wanted, they did not make known the conditions upon which they were prepared to make these advances, in order that there might have been some competition?

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked the House to look at the matter from a business standpoint. It was an extraordinary proceeding that, at the very close of the session, they should be asked to consider a new and large question of this kind. He did not wish to make the slightest reflection on the Cunard Company. That company, he believed, was a credit to the country, and he had always heard it spoken of in high terms. It was not the business of the House to make any reflection on the company, however severely they might criticise the agreement. The agreement had four parts. The first related to this large loan at a very low rate of interest. The object of the loan was to place a trading company in funds, without the slightest restriction being placed on the manner in which the money was to be spent, except that it was to be to the advantage of the company. That was an extremely bad precedent to set, and it was a great pity that such a step should be proposed at a time when it could not be properly appreciated by the House of Commons. Why was this one company picked out, and this large loan granted to it, without strict inquiry as to whether some other company of equally good standing would be willing to carry out the conditions with a less serious obligation on the country? The second part of the agreement was for the payment of a large annual subsidy. That was distinctly against the recommendations of the recent Committee on Shipping Subsidies, the general tenure of whose Report was to discourage the policy of granting subsidies. When the Naval Estimates were before the House it appeared that the Admiralty fully accepted that Report, both in letter and in spirit, by the abandonment of existing subsidies, and one would have supposed that they would have pursued that policy a little further. There might possibly be a special case to be made out for the new subsidy, but at any rate it had not been put before the House. It seemed very strange that, so soon after steps had been taken against the policy of subsidies, this extravagant bargain should have been rushed into. Upon what Estimates was the payment of this subsidy to be borne? It ought to appear on the Naval Estimates; that would be the most regular way in which to deal with it. He did not believe the country would get the least return for the subsidy; in fact, a careful study of the agreement showed that the bargain would rather tie the hands of the Government. The answer would probably be that they had the right of hiring or purchasing the boats on terms stated in the agreement. His objection to that was that we had entered into the bargain with regard to hire and purchase quite prematurely, and the tendency of the bargain would be to tie our hands and to lay greater obligations on the country.

The third part of the agreement related to hiring, and that ought to be very carefully studied by the House. The rates on which these ships were to be taken were extremely high. In time of war high rates might have to be paid, and the only advantage of making a bargain in advance was that of securing more reasonable terms. The rates varied according to the speed of the ship, and ran from 25s. per ton per month on the gross register, down to 17s. or 20s. in the case of the smaller ships. In twelve months, under the agreement, they would pay the full price of nearly all the ships, while in the case of the larger ships, if the engagement went on for fifteen or sixteen months, even they would be fairly paid for. It seemed to him that if such an agreement was made so long in advance, with one particular company, much better terms ought to have been obtained. It was not even stated that these were the maximum rates; they would be bound to pay these extravagant prices if the ships were taken. In what way were these rates fixed? The Committee seemed to have proceeded in a rough-and-ready way, and their maximum proposals had been embodied in the agreement. The House ought really to have some defence of these extraordinary and extravagant figures. It would have been much better to have left the matter until an emergency arose, or, if the bargain was to be made at once, to have secured competition. The fourth part of the agreement gave the right to purchase all the fleet of this company. A price had been stated of the value of the ships on the 29th September, and the Government were to have the right to purchase them at that rate subject to a certain depreciation. But the tendency was to make that price the actual amount that the country would have to pay, and it seemed to him to be a very high price. These were the four aspects of the question which, in his opinion, ought to be carefully studied by the House before they sanctioned this agreement. He agreed with the hon. Member for Dundee that the Government had rushed into the matter in a moment of panic, and the whole agreement seemed to be a crowning instance of the extravagance of the present Administration. Complaints had been made for some time past of the rate at which public expenditure was growing, and the Government seemed to have determined at the end of the session to give one final kick, and that to be the worst of all. The policy of the loan was bad, the subsidy would require a great deal of justification, and the other clauses were most extraordinary to have been adopted before the emergency arose. He begged to move.

MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth) seconded.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'this House regrets that an arrangement was made with the Cunard Steamship Company without first ascertaining by public competition the terms upon which the Government requirements might have been met by other companies.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Debate arising.

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY AND INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY (AGREEMENTS).

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Amendment to Question [12th August], "That the Agreement dated the 30th day of July, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the Cunard Steamship Company, Limited, printed in Command Paper, No. 1703, and the Agreement dated the 1st day of August, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the International Mercantile Marine Company and others, printed in Command Paper, No. 1704, be approved."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'this House regrets that an arrangement was made with the Cunard Steamship Company without first ascertaining by public competition the terms upon which the Government requirements might have been met by other companies.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Debate resumed.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) said the speech of the hon. Member for Islington was very much the same kind of speech as that of the hon. Member for Dundee, who also seemed to suggest that this agreement was wrong because it gave an unreasonable preference to the Cunard Steamship Company. He ventured to suggest that the circumstances which surrounded the initiation of this contract left the Government very little or no choice. They had no desire to give anything in the nature of a benefit to the Cunard Steamship Company. The fact that that company might make money in the future out of that agreement was no argument against the agreement. The reason that there was not now in the shipping trade that feeling of panic which existed two years ago, to which the hon. Member for Dundee referred, was entirely owing to this agreement. Two years ago the American millionaires had invaded almost every sphere of trading in Great Britain; they had taken possession of the match-making trade and the manufacture of electric tramways and other things, and, in fact, there was scarcely a single branch of British trade in which American capital had not been used for the purpose of absorbing the British interest; and, finally, the American millionaires threatened the shipping trade, not in any particular section, but in every direction, and more particularly in the direction of the Atlantic trade. The situation was that 8,010 American millionaires, who had control of the whole of the railways in America, conceived the possibility of obtaining control of the shipping. If the same group of millionaires who controlled the railways were able to get hold of the passenger and freight trade carried on between Great Britain and America they would have been able to establish a monopoly and charge what they pleased. That was the object of Mr. Pierpont Morgan, and eventually some half-dozen steamship lines became absorbed in the American combination. The Cunard Steamship Company alone held out, not from any patriotic motives, but purely as a matter of business. They were like the last voter of a corrupt borough before the Ballot Act; who kept back his vote to the last in order to get the biggest price. If the Cunard Steamship Company had succumbed, the object the American millionaires had in view would have been accomplished; and it was, therefore, a patriotic duty on the part of the Government to make, if necessary, some sacrifice for the purpose of preventing a monopoly being established to our detriment. He did not believe a sacrifice in the sense in which he spoke had been made. The Government had made a bargain which was exceedingly beneficial to the country at large which even now was capable of a complete defence against the attacks made upon it.

We could not deal with questions of this kind on the financial basis which had been laid down by the hon. Member for Dundee. The Government, in exchange for this concession which they had given to the Cunard Steamship Company, got, in the first place, a contract from the Cunard Steamship Company to build two vessels which were never likely to pay their way, and which would be run at a loss of about £150,000 a year, and which would run at a speed of twenty-four or twenty-five knots an hour, and the difference between the policy announced by the Secretary to the Admiralty of the abolition of subsidies to existing vessels, and the policy set forth in this agreement was that in the one case the subsidy was given to existing vessels, and in the other an amount of money was given as an inducement to shipowners to build a particular class of ship which would not otherwise have been built. These vessels would be of a higher speed than any other vessel afloat either for the purposes of war or commerce, and the advantage of such vessels to the Navy would be enormous, because they would be in actual running, always ready for use, with no risk of breakdown such as has occurred to ships suddenly brought out, ready, subject to some very few alterations and the shipping of their guns, for immediate service as cruisers or troopships. It was quite true that the Admiralty could build such ships for themselves, but they would come as a charge on the Naval Estimates, whereas now the money would be subscribed by the public on the guarantee of the Government. The crews of these vessels would belong to the Royal Naval Reserve and the Fleet Reserve, and would be in constant training, and these vessels could be used for training fresh men and officers from time to time. The loan was extremely well secured as the £2,500,000 was secured, by a property worth £4,500,000. Another advantage was that this company was bound to remain British, and there could be no attempt in the future on the part of the American millionaires to restore and continue the panic of two years ago by attempting to create a monopoly. He gave his hearty approval to this agreement in all its details because it had removed the danger, under the fear of which they were labouring.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead) thought this was purely a matter of business, and that from a financial point of view the Government had got the best of the bargain. When the subsidy of £150,000 per annum was divided among the nineteen steamers it would only represent £8,000 for each, which was not much in view of the fact that the Government could take them practically at any time they wanted them. And when the interest to be paid by the Cunard Company on the loan was added to the one-twentieth of the capital sum to be paid back and deducted from the total subsidy, the balance was only about £16,500 per annum. The crux of the whole question was the speed of the two new vessels which were to be built. Ostensibly they were to steam twenty-four and a half knots. But if the Admiralty were going to have anything to do with the designing or engineering he could only say "Lord help them," for the Admiralty had never yet built a ship which had the speed designed for her. If these vessels did not steam twenty-four and a half knots continuously, the money would be thrown away. In order to do that these vessels were required to develop enormous horse power—70,000 or 20,000 horse power through each screw. When they looked at the risk the Government was taking, he dreaded that, unless this matter was gone into thoroughly, and if those vessels failed in their speed, the Government had made a bad bargain. It had been asked why had the Admiralty not decided to build the ships themselves? He had "many a time and oft" directed attention to the fast cruisers built by the Government at nearly the price of these vessels, and he was sorry to say that they had never been able to attain their designed speed. Therefore the Government were perfectly right to go to private builders and get the vessels built from merchant shipping designs. By getting command of the whole fleet of this company upon the terms they had secured he thought the Government had done a very wise action, because they could not build those large ships and put in such enormous engines and make them pay. He thought that the Government had done a very good and sensible bit of business in this agreement, provided that they saw that the vessels were all right. He congratulated the Government, therefore, on the move they had made, but he warned them that, if the vessels were not properly designed, if their engines were not properly dimensioned and the three screws were not in the proper place, they would never get the designed speed continuously, and the whole of their undertaking would be an unmitigated failure and a disgrace to the country.

*MR. CHARLES MCARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) said it was satisfactory to note that whatever criticisms of an adverse character had been made in the cause of this debate they had been made with moderation, and those criticisms had been directed more against the details of this proposal than against the principle of it. The hon.

Member for Islington had asked why public competition had not been invited? The answer to that question was that it was not a case in which competition could be applied, because there was only a very limited class of vessels that could give services of this nature, because the great bulk of their steamers were not vessels of that character. Only ships of great size and speed and coal capacity could perform the duties required under this agreement. He agreed with the remarks of the hon. Member opposite that this matter should not be looked at from sentimental considerations only. He did not wish to disparage the very important considerations brought forward by his hon. friend the Member for Shipley. He agreed with him that this company had refused to fall in with the American combination and had stood out although sorely tempted. It was desirable in the interests of the country that they should be able to secure the very best steamers to carry the mails in time of peace and to act as auxiliaries to the Navy in time of war. The Government by this proposal had undertaken to give employment to the vessels belonging to the companies included in the International Mercantile Marine Company. The companies, on the other hand, had contracted that these vessels should remain British as regarded register, their officers and a proportion of the crew. He thought that was a very fair bargain.

The necessity for the Cunard agreement arose from the fact that the time had arrived when the very swiftest steamers, the finest patterns of naval architecture, were no longer to be found under the British flag. That was simply because they could not be built on commercial lines. That had been shown by the Report of the Subsidies Committee, and also by the Report of the Cruisers Committee. The increase of cost in providing each additional knot of speed had greatly increased out of proportion to the cost of the previous speeds, and on that account the figures mounted up to such a point that these vessels were so costly to build and maintain that they could not be run for commercial purposes. That was the reason why our shipowners had not built them. Did they think the Cunard Company and the White Star Line would have allowed the blue riband of the Atlantic to be wrested from their hands if they had been able to provide these vessels? That could not be done, and if the Government wanted these vessels for national purposes they must either build them themselves or else assist the shipowners to provide them. Supposing we did not provide them ourselves, we should have to depend upon foreigners to carry our mails, and we had not fallen so low as that yet. In time of war the position would be more serious, as if we had not the quickest ships in the world that would be a menace to British commerce. These foreign ships of higher speed would prey upon our shipping. They would form links of communication between hostile fleets, and we would have nothing to place against them. Therefore the vessels of exceptional speed which it was proposed to build under this agreement were of the greatest importance, from the naval point of view, as scouts and means of communication between different fleets. We got these vessels by this arrangement on very moderate terms. If the country had to provide them as part of the Navy, the country would have to pay the cost of building them and of maintaining them, and probably maintaining them doing nothing. Whereas, under the agreement the country really got them for nothing. They were provided really without cost to the Government [OPPOSITION Cries of "Oh!"] because the Government advanced a loan, and that loan would be paid off.

MR. LOUGH: And the subsidy?

*MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said he would now deal with the subsidy, which he thought was misnamed. This £150,000 paid by the Government was compensation for the loss necessarily incurred in working these vessels on commercial lines. That was shown in the Report of the Cruisers Committee, which showed that a speed of between twenty-four and twenty-five knots would involve a loss per annum of something like £125,000, or for the two vessels £250,000, a year by working them on commercial lines. Against that loss the Government paid the Cunard Company £150,000 on the two vessels. Therefore, he said this subsidy was to make up the loss which was necessarily to be incurred in running these vessels, which were built of exceptional speed for Government and national purposes. That, he contended, was a very good arrangement, but he could not say it was a profitable arrangement for the Cunard Company. It was quite possible a loss might be incurred in running the vessels at a high speed. What did the Cunard Company give in return? In the first place, they guaranteed the British character of these vessels. The shares were to be British, the directors British, and the principal officers, the master-engineers, and three-fourths of the crews were to be British subjects, while half of the crew were to belong to the Naval Reserve. They placed the whole of their fleet at the service of the Government to buy or hire, and they agreed not to hire or sell any vessels of their fleet without the previous consent of the Government, and they gave the Government a controlling interest in all matters affecting this agreement. The company virtually surrendered its independence and became virtually a State concern. They had resisted the temptation to throw in their lot with the foreign combination. They had remained true and faithful to British interests and therefore he thought the agreement was profitable and for the benefit of the nation he hoped it would be profitable to the Cunard Company, and he hoped it would be unanimously approved by the House.

*MR. REA (Gloucester) said the hon. Member for Islington's Amendment was directed to the absence of competition for this contract which the Government had made, but the Government were not to be blamed for that. The area of competition was extremely limited. There were no ships engaged in any trade in the world which were capable of performing the services which the Admiralty required except those engaged in this particular trade. Therefore the area of competition was confined to the Cunard Company and the International Combine; the Government had made a bargain with each of these companies. Another reason why the ships in this particular trade should be preferred to any others for the service of the Admiralty was the fact that they were more available in time of war, for they were always at work and always to hand. He would give as an instance the rapidity with which the United States had prepared four ships for sea in the Spanish American war. Those vessels at the time the war broke out were engaged in this particular trade between Southampton and New York. On the 13th and 14th of April, 1898 the United States requisitioned those steamers and one day later two of them sailed from Southampton, having abandoned all their contracts, and eleven days after that they were coaled, armed, and manned, and ready for use in New York. They were ready just in time to enable General Miles to take his army at the moment when he required it, and this prompt action did much toward the speedy settlement of the war. Not only this, but these very vessels discovered the position of the Spanish Fleet, when all the world was wondering where Admiral Cervera was. There was no doubt about it that the services which those mercantile cruisers rendered during that war were of inestimable value. The question in regard to this proposal made by the Government was whether they were paying too much. There was no doubt that the House must be convinced that steamers of this character could not be run upon commercial lines. He believed it was a fact that the amounts to be paid under this agreement were arrived at before the Report of the Mixed Commission was issued, and that Report was a striking confirmation of the arrangement made under this agreement. The price estimated by that Commission for vessels to run between twenty-four and twenty-five knots per hour was £130,000 or £260,000 for two steamers. That Report was based on a ten years agreement, but this agreement was for twenty years. Taking into account the actual valuation and estimates made by this Commission and the bargain made by the Government, he really did not think that the Cunard Company had very much to congratulate themselves upon. On the whole he was inclined to congratulate the Cunard Company more upon their courage in undertaking this contract than upon their luck in getting it.

Then there was the question of the other agreement with the International Company. He was aware that the hon. Member for King's Lynn and others thought the Government had not been dealing with the right people in negotiating with a foreign firm under the cover of the British flag, under which they could work their steamers at 20 per cent. less cost than under the American flag, but he forgot to say they could be worked for 10 per cent. less still under the Belgian or a Scandinavian flag. These ships had English managing owners, men of the highest standing and ability, and they were responsible to British law. It was quite true that the shares in this company were all owned by another organisation registered at New Jersey in the United States, but the ultimate ownership of the company was international. He remembered that he made a statement in this House last year that the preponderance of the ownership of this company was American. He made a mistake on that occasion. At that time the preponderance was British, and he believed that the proportion had not very much varied between that time and this. The ships were British built in British yards, they employed British labour, and they were repaired by British labour. Their captains, officers, engineers and crew were British. Many of the men belonged to the Royal Navy Reserve and were available for every service. The United States' share in the international arrangement was simply that they got their dividends when earned. The designers of this international combination were accused of two things. They were accused of being cosmopolitan capitalists, and they were accused of being conspirators against British supremacy on the ocean in the interests of the United States. He would ask whether it was impossible to believe that the gentlemen who after very long consideration had joined in international co-operation rather than in international competition, were animated by larger ideas. No doubt they had ideas of dividends, but was it not possible to believe that they thought of political and international amity. He should like to quote the words of an American Civil Servant. In his last annual report the Commissioner of Navigation for the United States said:—

"The organisation of a steamship alliance of such magnitude, international in character as well as in name—for the vessels will be under the American, British, German, Belgian, and possibly other flags—is a matter of public concern both in the United States and abroad. In the event of war, especially one in which the United States is not a party, it suggests unusual possibilities. A war involving Great Britain with a Continental maritime power would imperil much American property at sea under the British flag. A war between the United States and Great Britain might place our warships in the singular position of capturing as prizes of war British steamers in which our own capital was heavily invested.'

But he goes on to say—

"Contingencies of war are remote, and for manifest reasons, this steamship alliance will become an agency for the preservation of the peace of nations."

He confessed that he approved of the arrangement the Government had made with the Cunard Company. He believed it would restore our supremacy on the Atlantic Ocean, but he did not the less congratulate them for having risen superior to the prejudice which found strong expression las year, and having taken a course which he believed was necessary to stamp on this steamship combination a genuine international character—a character which he believed was sought by its promoters.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said the hon. Members for Gateshead, Shipley and Gloucester had admirably reviewed the financial aspect of the agreement the Government had made. He desired for his part to cordially congratulate the Government upon this agreement. He did not do so as a blind adherent of the Government. He thought the House would give him credit for that. He thought that the Government rose to the occasion when last year the country was in a state of panic with regard to the Morgan combine, and dealt with the situation in a level-headed and satisfactory way. No doubt comparatively little notice had been taken of this agreement by the public, and he thought that was really a matter of praise. It showed that the country was content with it, and he believed that the panic which existed at the time had largely subsided because of the agreement that had been made. Nobody could deny that a panic did exist, and he thought it would be worth while to read to the House one or two statements made at the time the combine took place. Referring to the Morgan combine one journal said—

> "A cursory examination of these instructive covenants leaves a distinctly unpleasant impression on the mind. . . . We have been told that there need be no question of the transfer of our great passenger fleets to foreign ownership and control. . . . But a mere recital of the leading provisions of the agreement will show that there is abundant ground for the anxiety which has found expression since the first rumours of the proposed amalgamation were published."

A letter mentioned in that article to justify the language used, was written at that time by Messrs J. P. Morgan and Co., and stated that in their opinion it might be an essential condition to the completion of the contract between themselves and the various shipping companies forming the combine that the majority of the shares of the new corporation should at the outset be held in America. Then the article said:—

> "If this proceeding passes unchallenged, we may find in the course of a few years that nearly all the swift steamers on which we rely as auxiliaries to the Royal Navy in case of emergency have passed under foreign domination. We cannot say that the danger is altogether imaginary, or that, in the light of this audacious enterprise, we are conjuring up visionary terrors. The publication of the contract seems at any rate to render it imperative that the Government should let us know what action they propose to take in a matter of such vital importance to our national existence."

That was published in a leading article in the *Standard* of 9th May, 1902. The hon. Member for West Islington had moved an Amendment which suggested that the Government ought to have asked for competition in this matter, and ought not at once to have fallen into the hands of the Cunard Company. He thought the hon. Member for Gloucester had answered that objection when he said that the Cunard Company only had the vessels which the Government were in need of. The essence of the solution of this matter was promptness; and if the Government had invited tenders, the House might not even now be discussing the agreement before it, nor was there any guarantee that the Cunard Company would not have joined the combine. It was true that they held out up to the time that His Majesty's Government approached them, but if there had been delay through asking for tenders, it was quite possible that the Cunard Company which was the one company that could stand up against the Morgan Combine, would have gone over to it, and then it would have been no longer possible to negotiate with them. Now even the British Morgan Companies remained under British control, in consideration of their being treated in all respects like British Companies, entitled to future benefits, and what to his mind was quite as important, bound by future reegulations.

The agreement entered into with the Cunard Company was essentially an Admiralty agreement except as regards Part 2 which dealt with the mails. The Admiralty believed that it was more economical to subsidise swift merchant steamers than to build naval ships, and as these two vessels, which were to be capable of steaming 24½ knots, were required for the Navy, he thought that the subsidy of £150,000 a year was not excessive. It was necessary to remember that these ships would not have been guilt without a subsidy; that they would be essentially British ships, built in British yards, and manned as far as possible by British crews, and that they, as well as the other Cunard ships, were to be placed at the disposal of the Government for purchase or hire. This might involve some disorganisation in the business of the Cunard Company, for which he thought it was reasonable that they should be paid as proposed. This was a subsidy for services rendered. The hon. Member for West Islington was mistaken in alleging that the Steamship Subsidies Committee had disapproved the granting of a subsidy of this character. He supposed that the paragraph to which the hon. Member referred was the one that said—

> "Your Committee, after due consideration, is of opinion that the principle of subsidies by, or for the Admiralty is only justified for obtaining a limited number of vessels of the

highest speed and great coal endurance among the mercantile marine, built according to Admiralty requirements, for purposes of National Defence."

The Committee there expressly said that, if the Admiralty thought fit, a subsidy to obtain a limited number of these vessels was justified, and if the hon. Member wished to know what number, he would refer him to Lord Charles Beresford's evidence before the Committee, where the numbers 4, 6, or 8 were specifically laid down.

He thought the Government in the agreement had adhered to the lines of the Report of the Subsidies Committee, and it was because the agreement was parallel with that Report that he desired to congratulate the Government. He would mention a few of the points in which the agreement and the Report coincided. Firstly, on the question of speed. The Subsidies Committee Report said—

> "Every effort should be made to maintain the pre-eminence of British Lines. . . . . . As far as possible a condition should be attached to every British postal subsidy that the speed of the ships employed shall equal the highest speed of foreign mail ships trading on the same routes."

They could not get ships of 24½ knots speed built unless they gave a large sum of money, for it was well known that after a certain speed according to the build of a vessel the cost of every additional knot is enormously disproportionate to the cost of the last. In support of this contention he might quote the words of Lord Brassey before the Subsidies Committee. He would be considered by every Member of the House a naval expert. He said—

> "Out of eleven ships of over twenty knots speed built since 1895, there is only one, the "Oceanic" which plies under the British flag."
>
> "I think they have four very fast vessels, the 'Etruria,' the 'Umbria,' the 'Lucania' and the 'Campania.' For mercantile purposes it does not pay to build faster ships, and therefore if you want that speed in your auxiliaries you have to pay for it."

In another respect the agreement ran on parallel lines with the Subsidies Report, because the plans were to be submitted to the Admiralty and the ships were to be built according to Admiralty requirements. The Subsidies Committee were strongly impressed also with the necessity of the Government having the right of pre-emption and that had been closely attended to throughout the agreement with the Cunard Company. Two of the provisions provided against the undue raising of freights, and the giving of undue preference. Those were both to his mind very valuable and important provisions, but he was not quite sure that the clauses in which they were embodied were really sufficient for their purpose. The Government spoke of unduly raising freights and of undue preference, but who was to decide what was "undue," and by what means were they to have that decision brought into effect. There was no special provision for arbitration. He imagined that arbitration would be the most convenient means of getting the matter decided.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) said arbitration was provided for.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL said he was glad to hear that, but even so he did not think the arbitrator would be able to give compensation to a third party who had been unduly charged. The most the arbitrator could do would be to prevent, in future, the parties from suffering by unduly high rates and freights or undue preference. For himself he should have preferred that the decision of such matters should be entrusted to the Railway and Canal Commissioners, but no doubt this could not be done without legislation. He did not think it could be denied that the insertion of a clause of this kind imported into an Admiralty contract a commercial aspect. He did not object, indeed he approved of it, but he knew that there were hon. Members who were very much afraid that subsidies would be paid for commercial purposes and not merely for naval or postal purposes. His answer to them was that he did not think it could be possibly avoided. As a post office witness, Mr. Buxton Forman had said before the Subsidies Committee, subsidised postal services are co-existent and co-extensive with a great commercial traffic, and follow its lines almost as a matter of course. He was very glad also that the Government had decided that no foreigner should own Cunard shares.

It was rather difficult to establish or carry out that condition, as an unpatriotic British nominee of a foreigner, who registered the foreigner's shares in his own name, was not always easily discoverable, and he had some doubts as to whether the condition about the selling of shares at market price would do all that was required. At the same time he did not think the Government could have taken better precautions, and he entirely approved of Sub-section 3, of Section 1 of the second Schedule which dealt with this matter. All things considered he believed that this agreement would clearly result to the public benefit.

* THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.) said that the Government had reason to congratulate themselves on the chorus of approbation with which the agreements had been greeted. He had listened attentively to all that had been said, and only two dissentient voices had been heard—those of the hon. Members for Dundee and West Islington. The Amendment moved by the latter Gentleman had been merged into the main discussion. He had been particularly glad to notice that the hon. Member for Dundee had accepted the agreement in principle, and only challenged certain details. The fact that the agreements had thus been accepted in principle by the House of Commons carried them a considerable way forward, and released him from the necessity of dealing at any great length with the questions of principle involved. The hon. Member for West Islington asked why it was that the agreement was made with the Cunard Company. Several sufficient answers had already been given to that Question, and he would supplement them with another. It was perfectly clear that the selection was limited to the great Atlantic lines by circumstances over which the Admiralty had no control, as it was absolutely necessary to have the service of ships of high speed, and their consequent size and draught would prevent their passage through the Suez Canal. It was therefore necessary for the Government to enter into the agreement with a company whose vessels were not required to pass through the Suez Canal. The hon. Member for Dundee spoke as if this was a new departure. He did not think that it was a new departure; it was only an extension on better lines of a policy which had been carried out for years. When the principle of subsidies was first adopted, the Admiralty obtained good value for the subsidies, because they got ships that could do something which no ships then in the Royal Navy could do. That advantage ceased, and it became not worth while to continue the subsidies in those particular instances. But now again the Admiralty had secured vessels for the performance of services that could not be rendered with equal advantage by the Royal Navy. The Admiralty could, no doubt, build ships of equal speed as well as anybody else, but by this agreement they would obtain the fast cruisers they required at much less cost. There was no reason why these ships, armed with modern weapons and carrying an enormous coal supply, should not keep the sea for an indefinite time, eluding every vessel they desired to escape, and overtaking any vessel which they desired to engage. He would like to ask the question: What would be the position of the Admiralty and of the country if, in a naval war, no vessel carrying the British flag could cope with merchant cruisers such as those we might find employed against us? The Admiralty had to consider the cheapest and most efficient method of meeting this menace—for menace it must be considered—and they took advantage of the existence of the great mercantile lines and by co operating with other Departments, anxious for national reasons to restore the prestige of the British Mercantile Marine in the Atlantic, they took the opportunity of providing themselves with fast cruisers ready for service in time of war. If the Admiralty had themselves built cruisers at a cost of £1,000,000 or £1,250,000, they would have had to provide these cruisers with crews, and to pay all the expenses of repairs; but under this arrangement nine-tenths of the cost was borne commercially, and the remaining tenth was a military contribution. That was a thoroughly sound business transaction. He had always maintained that they ought not to

obtain money from the Navy Estimates for anything they could obtain commercially. As to the speeds in the Atlantic trade, he would point out that one of the foreign lines ran steamers at an annual subsidy of £280,000 a year, and these ships could not be run commercially at a profit.

Some remarks had been made as to the rates to be paid for these ships; but he maintained that the rates were moderate and reasonable. There was evidence of that. During the South African war it was found that, apart from the subsidy agreements, the rates for the ships, they had been compelled to take up, were higher than those they were paying under this arrangement. The hon. Member for West Islington recommended that the Admiralty should wait till the emergency arose. On the contrary, he thought that the House was convinced that it was the poorest kind of economy, and the greatest extravagance, to wait until the emergency arose before making preparations. He should like to say a word in regard to the very reasonable criticism of the hon. Member for Gateshead, who said that the Admiralty should make sure that they got value for their money in the matter of high speed. He agreed that this should be so. It was absolutely essential, in the opinion of the Government, that these ships should possess the speed contracted for, and they had taken every reasonable precaution to secure that result. There was a clause in the agreement requiring a minimum of twenty-three and a-half knots in moderate weather. This was an important provision, for it meant that the moment the speed fell below that standard, there was a proportionate reduction of the subsidy. He thought that the Board of Trade, who had negotiated this agreement, were to be congratulated upon making it, because the criticisms had been directed more to what was called the military side of it than against the business side, which, after all, was the most important aspect of it. He held that the agreements had carried the general assent of the House and the country. It had been said that the agreements were the outcome of panic. That was a most unreasonable observation. It was because of the manner in which those two agreements had been drawn up that the dangers which gave rise to panic had to a large extent passed away. By these agreements there was reason to believe that the Government had fully secured the perpetuation of that supremacy on the Atlantic to which they attached so much importance.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said that there was no use flogging a dead horse for the House had made up its mind as to general acquiescence in these agreements. He, however, wished once more to enter his protest against the policy of subsidies. He might be tempted to follow many of the arguments used in their favour, but having regard to the time of the House he would not do so. This, however, he would say: that he was satisfied in his own mind that the Admiralty had not really considered fully the whole problem of the protection of our commerce in time of war. The strategical distribution of ships rather than fast armed merchant steamers would accomplish the object far better. His fear was that this was another beginning of a policy which he had hoped was abandoned, and he looked upon it as a policy which would not stand the test of scientific examination. He would ask one definite question: Would it be possible, in the event of war, for this company to refuse to carry the mails despite the present subsidy in view of the additional risks which would be incurred?

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that this question had been debated with a great deal of knowledge on both sides of the House. It had two aspects—the commercial and the naval; and the naval aspect had been predominant during the debate. It must be admitted that this agreement was the result of what he must still call the panic of last year, caused by the great Morgan syndicate. Was there any cause for that alarm? The combination was not formed with any purpose of challenging our supremacy. It was a purely commercial operation, undertaken for purely commercial reasons, with no anti-British object. These commercial motives did not seem to have been so successful as had been anticipated. As to subsidies, he must enter his protest against anything in the nature of subsidies, and he joined the hon. Member for Dundee in asking whether this agreement was only the beginning of a new policy? A subsidy could only be justified where it was not a subsidy—that is to say, where it was payment for direct value received. Subsidies were interminable, because, once begun, it was impossible to say when they would stop; they were unfair to the unsubsidised steamers; they gave rise to lobbying, and to the intrusion of private influences into the political sphere; and they provoked counter subsidies in other countries. If this country began to give subsidies, it was perfectly certain that the United States would beat us at it, and that Congress would recall that policy which it had been inclined to drop. But this present case was not an ordinary subsidy. It was rather a bargain for certain naval purposes. As to the value of those purposes, there were certain aspects of the question which seemed to suggest that we had not made a good bargain. There was a case for having very swift vessels; but it was not proved that it was necessary to have such vessels in the form of mercantile cruisers. It was not proved that the necessary speed could not be obtained with smaller vessels built expressly for the purpose, which might be more effective as scouts carrying guns, and which possibly would be able to keep the sea, if not for so long a time, still for as long a time as there was likely to be any actual necessity for. Such vessels could be built for them at far less cost than these two great vessels. He thought they ought to have more evidence given to the House to satisfy them that this was a good bargain. As to making preparations beforehand, was it not notorious in the South African war that the chartering of vessels had been undertaken with an extreme want of business tact? This charge was a heavy addition to the naval budget. But he supposed it would be contended that, on the whole, the arrangement was advantageous. No doubt it would be said that the cost of maintaining the vessels in efficiency would be a large item.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that what we now paid for the two vessels was less than half the cost of a third-class crusier.

Mr. BRYCE said that, whilst agreeing that vessels of a high speed were needed, he did not think the arguments which the Government had presented conclusively showed that the object desired could not have been more economically obtained.

Mr. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale) said he had had a good deal of experience in regard to these questions, and he felt perfectly convinced that in this matter the Government had made a thoroughly good, business-like bargain as far as the Admiralty and the Post Office were concerned. Whether the Cunard Company had made a good bargain for themselves was very questionable indeed, and if they did not take great care those ships would ruin them. [Opposition cries of "Oh oh."] The cost of running such ships had in no way been exaggerated. Quite recently he had been in communication with the Canadian Government in respect to the fast postal service which they desired, he found that as yet that Government had received no acceptable offer. They had received only two offers from the outside public for a service much inferior to that which the British Government would get under these agreements, and these were one for £300,000 a year and the other for £200,000 a year. It was not an easy matter to get competition in regard to these vessels, because the people did not exist who were willing to undertake such a service for any sum approaching the excellent and good terms which the Government had made with the Cunard Company. Even if the Admiralty had got ships of their own they could not run them year in and year out during the winter and summer. As regarded *personnel* that was a very valuable service which they got from the Cunard Company, and they could not get that service in other ways. If the Government had not taken these steps it was highly probable that this company would have joined the great Shipping Combination which would have meant that the American railways would have controlled the whole of the Atlantic trade. If the Cunard Company had joined the Morgan combination the whole trade would have been in the hands of the Americans. He thanked the Government for having had the common sense to deal with both the Cunard Company and the International Company in the way they had done, for by this action they had prevented the Americans obtaining control of the whole of the Atlantic trade.

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes 92; Noes, 18. (Division List No. 262.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt. HnJA(*Worc*)
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hn. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Groves, James Grimble
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Henderson, Sir A. (*Stafford, W.*)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Howard, Jno. (*Kent, Faversham*
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N.R*
Lee, A. H. (*Hants., Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, RtHnA. Graham (*Bute*
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rea, Russell
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Thompson, Dr EC (*MonaghanN*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Bell, Richard
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Cremer, William Randal
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Lloyd-George, David
Paulton, James Mellor
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Scott, C. Prestwich (*Leigh*)
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid.*)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr Lough and Mr. Henry J. Wilson.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved that the Agreement dated the 30th day of July, 1903, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the Cunard Steamship Company, Limited, printed in Command Paper, No. 1703, and the Agreement dated the 1st day of August 1903, entered intd between His Majesty's Government ano the International Mercantile Marine Company and others, printed in Command Paper, No. 1704, be approved.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

Motion made, Question proposed, "That further proceedings on the Port of London Bill be suspended till the next session of Parliament: That on any day in that session a Motion may be made, after notice, by a Minister of the Crown, to be decided without Amendment or Debate, that proceedings on that Bill may be resumed, and if that Motion is decided in the affirmative the said Bill, as reported from the Joint Committee, shall stand committed to a Committee of the whole House in like manner as if the previous proceedings on the Bill or in relation thereto had taken place in that session in due compliance with all Standing Orders. That this Order be a Standing Order of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said some explanation was due to the House as to the treatment of a Bill of this importance by the Government, and he wished to know whether the Bill would be carried over to a new Parliament as well as to a new session. The leader of the House had treated the Bill in a cavalier way. The Bill affected the trade of London and private interests of great gravity: it raised questions which, once raised, ought to have been settled in view of the trade interests affected. The Bill should never have been introduced unless it was seriously intended to carry it through. There was no responsibility on the Opposition side of the House for the failure to pass the Bill, because in order to facilitate its passage they had abstained from putting down many Amendments. The truth was that the Government had been intimidated by the City Corporation to put down a large number of Amendments to the Bill, and in the circumstances it was impossible for the Bill to be carried at this late period of the session. London had always been treated with contempt and humiliation by the present Government, as for instance, in regard to the Water Board and Education Bills.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said it was evident from the concluding sentence of the hon. Gentleman that the real object of his protest against the prudent and sensible course taken by the Government in regard to the Bill was to deliver an electioneering speech to the citizens of London. He did not think it would do the hon. Gentleman much good. He would undertake to say that the present Government could show three great measures, to any one the hon. Gentleman could show, for the benefit of the toilers in this great central area. The hon. Gentleman, with unusual felicity, had answered his own speech. He had said that in the circumstances and under the pressure of public business at the end of the session no other course was open to the Government. That was a complete justification of the Motion before the House.

*SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London) opposed the Motion. It was not necessary for him, as the representative of the City of London, to answer the unjust innuendoes thrown out by the hon. Member for Poplar. The Prime Minister had said, in reply to a Question, that as the Bill was a quasi-public Bill, it could properly be carried over to next session. But the Bill was purely a public Bill. The Bill was brought in by the President of the Board of Trade, was almost forced through this House on Second Reading after a very short debate. It was immediately handed over to the Joint Committee. The Chairman of that Joint Committee strained almost to breaking point his prerogative as chairman, with the view of getting the Bill reported to the House, so that it might pass this session. The Bill was very far-reaching in its influence. It effectually wiped out the docks of London as a private enterprise, and it performed a similar act with regard to the Thames Conservancy. It was destruction to the Watermen's Company, it involved very large expenditure, and none of the threatened interests had been permitted to defend themselves by evidence before the Joint Committee. If it was contended that it was a Private Bill the preamble should have been proved. It was absolutely necessary it should be discussed by the whole House. He had been amused by a letter in *The Times* from a member of the London County Council, which either showed what ignorance was displayed by some members of the Council, or was designed to throw dust in the eyes of the ratepayers. This gentleman spoke of £2,500,000 being given by the London County Council as a free gift for the benefit of the Port. That was not the fact. The Council had no reserve to make free gifts of the kind, and the money would have to be found by the ratepayers. He objected to the Resolution, and could not support it. This was not a quasi-private Bill but a Government Bill. What took place at the Joint Committee was simply to push the Bill through, to rush it as quickly as possible. The Prime Minister should at least allow the Resolution for recommitment standing in his hon. friend's name, the Member for the City, and his own, to be properly debated when the Bill again came before the House.

*MR. REA (Gloucester) said the decision of the chairman to exclude the question of the purchase of the docks was unanimously approved by the Committee on the ground that it was in the nature of a principle agreed to by the House on the Second Reading.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON asked whether the Bill was carried over for a session of this Parliament, or, in the event of a dissolution, to a new Parliament.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is quite irrespective of a dissolution.

MR. DAVID MORGAN (Essex, (Walthamstow) asked whether, if the Bill was hung over till next session, the companies in the interval would be free to carry on their business just as if no Bill had been brought in, and to apply to Parliament for further monetary powers if they wished to do so.

Ordered, That further proceedings on the Port of London Bill be suspended till the next session of Parliament.

Ordered, That on any day in that session a Motion may be made, after notice, by a Minister of the Crown, to be decided without Amendment or debate, that proceedings on that Bill may be resumed, and if that Motion is decided in the affirmative the said Bill, as reported from the Joint Committee, shall stand committed to a Committee of the Whole House in like manner as if the previous proceedings on the Bill or in relation thereto had taken place in that session, after due compliance with all Standing Orders.

Ordered, That this Order be a Standing Order of the House.—(*Mr. A, J. Balfour.*)

REVENUE BILL.

As amended, considered; Bill read the third time, and passed.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) moved, as a consequential Amendment, in page 5, line 22, after "appeal" to insert "and no other magistrate is available."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 22, after the word 'appeal' to insert the words 'and no other magistrate is available.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. SPEAKER: There are a number of Amendments on the Paper and I understand there is no objection to any of them. If that is the case it would shorten matters if they were put in one Question. If, however, any hon. Member desires to speak upon any one of them that course will not be followed.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) ask whether the Lord Advocate could assure the House that there was no substantial alteration in the Bill.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) said the Amendments involved no substantial alteration, with one exception. By an Amendment introduced in this House, railway refreshment rooms were exempted from the Bill. It had been pointed out that that might allow them to be opened on Sundays, and an Amendment had been inserted in another place to prevent that.

Lords Amendments agreed to.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Twelve oclo'ck.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 13*th August*, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation Bill. Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3058. Portugal (Chinde).
No. 3059. Turkey (Damascus).
No. 3060. United States (Portland (Oregon)).
No. 3061. Brazil (Bahia).
No. 3062. Russia (St. Petersburg).
No. 3063. Zanzibar (Zanzibar).
No. 3064. Portugal (Northern Portugal).
No. 3065. France (Society Islands).

MISCELLANEOUS, No. 4. (1903.)

Correspondence respecting the application of the French Law of Association to institutions of British origin.

AFRICA, No. 10. (1903.)

Despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Brussels respecting the Commission for the Protection of the Natives, instituted by the Government of the Independent Congo State under the Decree of 18th September, 1896.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Report of the Board of Education, for the year 1902–1903.

LUNACY (IRELAND).

Fifty-second Report, with Appendices, of the Inspectors of Lunatics in Ireland, for the year 1902.

LABOUR STATISTICS.

Ninth Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom, 1901–1902.

"OPTIONS" AND "FUTURES" IN FOODSTUFFS (LEGISLATION RESPECTING).

Reports from the Canadian Government and from His Majesty's representatives abroad on legislative measures respecting gambling in "Option" and "Future" contracts as regards foodstuffs.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade.

I. Authorising the Construction of Light Railways in—The city of Gloucester; the parishes of Wotton St. Mary (Without), Barnwood, Hucclecote, and Brockworth, in the county of Gloucester.

II. Amending the Callington Light Railway Order, 1900.

III. Amending the West Manchester Light Railways Order, 1899, and authorising the construction of additional light railways in the parish and urban district of Stretford, in the county of Lancaster.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1881.

Returns for the year 1901–1902.

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Account of deposits in Naval Savings Banks and the payments thereof, and of interest thereon, of all investments under the Naval Savings Banks Act, 1866, and the application of the interest or dividends accruing in respect thereof, and of the proceeds of any sale of any stocks, annuities, or securities during the financial year 1901–1902.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (IRELAND) (PROBATE DIVISION).

Accounts, for the year ended 31st December, 1902.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1870.

Two Orders in Council of the 10th August, 1903, entitled "The Niger Navigation Order in Council, 1903," and "The Niger Transit Order in Council, 1903."

DOCKYARD PORTS REGULATION ACT, 1865.

Order in Council of the 10th August, 1903, making rules and regulations for the dockyard port of Queenstown.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Two Orders in Council of 10th August, 1903, (*a*) varying the dues payable in respect of the Basses and Minicoy lights, and (*b*) confirming three Merchant Shipping Ordinances enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of Hong Kong.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894, AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (MERCANTILE MARINE FUND) ACT, 1898.

Order in Council of 10th August, 1903, altering the scale of light dues set out in the Second Schedule to the Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act, 1898.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

REVENUE BILL.

Brought from the Commons.

SHEEP SCAB BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

MARINE STORE DEALERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to, with a consequential Amendment to the Bill.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS EXPENSES BILL.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Read 2^{a} (according to Order): Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX having been suspended), Bills read 3^{a}, and passed.

POOR PRISONERS' DEFENCE BILL.

Read 2^{a} (according to Order): Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX having been suspended), Bill read 3^{a}; Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

PATENT OFFICE (EXTENSION) BILL.

Read 3^{a} (according to Order), and passed.

LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

Commons consequential Amendment considered (on Motion), and agreed to.

REVENUE BILL.

Read 1^{a}: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX having been suspended), read 2^{a}: Committee negatived: Bill read 3^{a}, and passed.

MACEDONIA, CHINA, AND VENEZUELA.

* **EARL SPENCER**: My Lords, seeing the noble Marquess, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in his place, I beg to ask him a series of Questions, of which I have given him private notice. The first refers to Macedonia. I think everyone must regret to see in the newspapers that the state of things in Macedonia seems now worse than when the last conversation about them took place in this House. I hope the noble Marquess will be able to give us some assurance with regard to that country, and will also explain the attitude which His Majesty's Government has taken in regard to the grave state of affairs which prevails there—a state of affairs which, I am afraid, shows that the arrangements proposed by the Austrian and Russian Governments have not succeeded in restoring contentment and happiness to the people. The second Question is with regard to China. We do not know whether the reports are true which have appeared in the newspapers, but we have during the last few weeks repeatedly seen accounts of disputes between the powers at Shanghai and the Chinese Government, in regard to certain Chinese connected, I believe, with the Press, who have been tried for alleged sedition. We understand from the public Press that there has been a demand for these men to be given up to the Chinese Government at Peking, or its representatives. I should like to know from the noble Marquess what has taken place with regard to that, and what line His Majesty's Government has taken. The third Question which I have to put to the noble Marquess is with regard to Venezuela. According to the protocol

made at the time of the dispute which took place with regard to Venezuela, certain matters were to be referred to the tribunal at the Hague, among them being the question whether the money to be paid by Venezuela in satisfaction of the various claims against her, was to be paid preferentially to Great Britain, Germany, and Italy, or equally between all the creditors of Venezuela. I wish to know whether the proposal included in the protocol has been carried out, to the effect that these matters should be referred to the tribunal at the Hague, and that the Czar of Russia should name the three Commissioners to form that tribunal. If this has not been carried out, I should be glad if the noble Marquess would inform us why it has not been done. Perhaps I had better read the Questions which I desire to put to the noble Marquess. They are : (1) whether he can give the House any information as to the position of affairs in Macedonia, and the attitude of His Majesty's Government in relation to the state of things in that country ; (2) as to the question of giving up certain Chinese journalists who have been tried, or are still under trial, at Shanghai, to the Chinese Government at Peking, or to its representatives ; and (3) as to what steps have been taken to carry out the engagements of the protocol of 7th May, made between Great Britain and Venezuela for the appointment of three persons, to form a tribunal under The Hague Convention, to determine whether the money to be paid by Venezuela, in satisfaction of the various claims against her, is to be paid preferentially to Great Britain, Germany, and Italy, or equally between all the creditors of Venezuela ; whether the Emperor of Russia has been asked by His Majesty's Government to appoint the three persons, and, if this has not been done, why not ?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE) : My Lords, I am afraid I cannot add very much to the information which is, no doubt, already in the possession of the noble Earl with regard to affairs in the Balkan Peninsula. We all hoped that the insurrectionary movement which prevailed in that part of Europe during the spring had permanently abated, and that it would become possible to introduce into that country the reforms of which it stands so much in need. That hope has, unfortunately, been disappointed, and we are aware that a very serious recrudescence of the trouble has recently taken place, mainly, I am afraid, owing to the increased activity of the Bulgarian revolutionary bands. The noble Earl desires to be informed of the attitude of His Majesty's Government with regard to this matter. The noble Earl will recollect that in the spring we readily admitted the claim of Austria-Hungary and Russia to deal with this question, and to propose measures of reform for Macedonia. We gladly supported the proposals of the two Governments, although we made reservations in case these measures should fail of success. If they have failed, I do not know that we can be very greatly surprised; because it would be almost too much to hope that the introduction of reforms would be possible during such a period of unrest as that through which these provinces have lately been passing.

We have recognised that, if it was the duty of the Turkish Goverment, on the one hand, to take energetic measures for the suppression of these disorders, it was also their duty to restrain their troops from excesses, and to use their influence over the Mussulman population with the same object. Advice of that kind has constantly been given to the Turkish Government by our Ambassador, Sir Nicholas O'Conor, and we have every reason to believe that it has been taken to heart. We have received during the last two or three days a circular communication from the Turkish Government, in which they announce that considerable progress has been made in the execution of the scheme of reforms ; that punishments by imprisonment and degradation have been inflicted on the soldiers who committed excesses at Komanoff, Matzoff, and Smirdesk, and on the officers who failed to restrain them ; that Courts-martial have also been instituted at Uskub, Monastir, and other places in these vilayets for the trial and punishment of similar offenders, and that several civil officials, of whom the Ambassadors have complained as failing in their duty, have been suspended and recalled. Sir Nicholas O'Conor tele graphed to me on the 4th inst. that two military commissions were inquiring into the charges which had been made against the Turkish authorities; and on the 9th inst. he informed me that he was confident that all the authority of the Turkish Government would be used to prevent excesses, to the danger of which, he said, the Turkish Government were fully alive. We shall continue to watch these events with anxious attention, and we shall do our best, so far as our opportunities permit, to mitigate these troubles.

The second Question which the noble Earl asked me had reference to the case of some Chinese journalists who have been imprisoned at Shanghai. These persons were accused of publishing statements of an inflammatory kind in a local newspaper; and I am bound to say that these statements, translations of which I have seen, were of a most violent and incendiary description. These men were arrested by the municipal authorities at Shanghai at the instance of the Chinese Taotai, and upon the assurance that they should be tried and punished by the mixed Court in the European settlement at Shanghai. Two of the men pleaded guilty; and we consider that we are morally bound, in consequence of the circumstances under which that plea was entered, to insist that the pledge that was given by the Chinese official should be carried out. The Chinese Government has applied for their surrender; but holding the views which we hold, we thought it desirable to instruct our Chargé d'Affaires that he was to refuse the demand. There is some doubt as to the opinion of the consular body at Shanghai, but we know that we do not stand alone in holding that the men ought not to be surrendered. Your Lordships probably noticed a terrible account of the manner in which a Chinaman was executed the other day at Peking, in circumstances of horrible barbarity; and we feel that in such a case as that which we are discussing, it would be impossible for us to be parties to the surrender of these accused persons to Chinese justice. We do not think the case one in which the opinion of the majority of the consular body ought necessarily to be allowed to prevail.

The third Question of the noble Earl has reference to the Venezuelan arbitration. The facts are as follows:—By the protocol signed on 13th February last, between Great Britain and Venezuela, it was agreed that any question as to the distribution of the Customs revenues assigned for the satisfaction of the British claims, and as to the rights of Great Britain, Germany, and Italy to a separate settlement of their claims, should be determined, in default of arrangement, by the tribunal at The Hague, to which any other Power interested should be allowed to appeal. Similar protocols were signed by Germany and Italy with Venezuela. At a subsequent date, on 7th May, the same three Powers—the Powers which had been engaged in the blockade—Germany, Great Britain, and Italy—signed an agreement with Venezuela, under which it was provided that the Emperor of Russia should be invited to name and appoint from the members of the permanent Court at The Hague three arbitrators to constitute the tribunal which is to determine and settle the questions submitted to it, under and by virtue of this agreement; and it was again provided that any nation having claims against Venezuela might join as a party in the arbitration. The other creditor Powers—other than those Powers engaged in the blockade—having claims against Venezuela, were subsequently invited to join in the arbitration. But in two cases a difficulty arose in consequence of a claim put forward by two of the Powers in question that the proceedings should be conducted in French.

We were of opinion that it would be better, and would add to the completeness and validity of the proceedings, if the request to the Emperor of Russia were made simultaneously by all the Powers concerned. Some delay was, therefore, caused in consequence of the action of the two Powers to which I have referred. But we have lately heard that the Venezuelan Government has proposed that it should be open to them to become parties to the arbitration, whether they adhere to the agreement or not, and that the tribunal should decide all questions of the interpretation of the agreement. In that proposal, which seems to be entirely reasonable, the United

States Government has concurred, and His Majesty's Government has concurred also. We instructed our Ambassador in St. Petersburg on the 8th inst. to press his colleagues to take early action, and to proceed without loss of time with the request to the Emperor of Russia. We have no reason for supposing that any of the Powers concerned desire a settlement by any means other than those laid down in the protocol and in the agreement, and we therefore have every reason to hope that the difficulties which I have mentioned will be easily overcome, and that the proceedings contemplated by the protocol and by the agreement will go on without further delay.

IRISH LAND BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with several of the Amendments made by the Lords agreed to; with several other of such Amendments agreed to, with Amendments; and with consequential Amendments to the Bill; with several other Amendments disagreed to; with Reasons for such disagreement.

On the Motion for the consideration of the Commons Amendments to the Lords Amendments,

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE) said: My Lords, although I believe that the Amendments to the Irish Land Bill have only within a very few minutes come into the possession of the House, I think your Lordships will have seen, from the ordinary channels of information, that the anticipation I was able to announce to this House the other day as to the advice which His Majesty's Government would be prepared to give to the House of Commons in reference to its arrangements, was substantially correct, and also that the House of Commons has acted upon that advice. Your Lordships are aware that at this stage of the proceedings of the two Houses of Parliament a considerable amount of communication outside the walls of either House generally becomes necessary, and the result of such communication has been, I believe, that I am able to form a confident anticipation that no difference will arise between the two Houses with regard to these Amendments. If I am correct, as I believe I am correct, in forming that anticipation, it will be my duty to move, as I propose to move, that this House do agree with the Commons in the Amendments made to their (the Lords) Amendments, and do not insist on their Amendments to which the Commons have disagreed.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN: My Lords, the noble Duke is perfectly correct in saying that there will be no disagreement in this House with the Amendments that have come up from the other House. I myself, and those noble Lords with whom I have the honour to act, will not disagree with the action of the Commons with regard to our Amendments, but I regret that three Amendments have not been accepted by the other House, because they were introduced by us, not with any desire to hinder the Bill, but rather with the purpose of making it operate better when it becomes an Act of Parliament. No doubt in a great measure of this kind there are many matters which may be considered by those in a position to know, to be capable of being carried out easily and effectually, but there are other matters which may possibly, though I hope not, give some amount of legal trouble. The three Amendments which the other House did not see fit to accept, were: one, proposed by my noble friend Lord Clonbrock, requiring the Estate Commissioners to state specifically their reasons for allowing a case to be dealt with outside the zones; the second, was proposed by myself with reference to the guarantee deposits. The objection in this case seemed to be that the Commissioners if they gave way in one case might be induced to give way in other cases inside the zones. And the third Amendment to which the Commons did not agree was the one to allow a discretion to the parties as to the character and amount of evidence they ought to produce in small cases. This Amendment was brought in to save expense, because in very small cases expenses are incurred which might often cover one year's rent with regard to the farm affected. It was brought in in the interests both of the landlord and the tenant, and I regret that it has not been accepted by the Government. But whilst I regret that these three Amendments have not been accepted I beg to thank your Lordshisd on behalf of noble Lords who have acted with me, for the sympathetic manner in which you have received the Bill, and also for the attention you have paid to all the various discussions upon it. I think the manner in which the Bill has been received by both Houses of Parliament shows that those connected with it seem to understand and realise the vast importance of this measure, and that the one general feeling is that this Bill, when it comes into operation, may act for the welfare not only of the landlords but also of the tenants, and be the means of making the relations between those classes more harmonious.

Lord CLONBROCK: My Lords, I fully associate myself with all that has fallen from the noble Duke beside me. I naturally regret that His Majesty's Government did not see their way to accept our Amendments which, I think, would have been more conducive to the successful working of the Bill, but I can say that we are grateful for those Amendments that they did accept, and I wish to express my full appreciation—which I know is shared by many others—of the sympathy shown by the noble Duke (the Duke of Devonshire)—and the other members of the Government for the Irish landlords, and the interest which they take in that much-enduring class in the most unfortunate position in which they are placed, though what I believe is now universally acknowledged to be the ill-judged legislation of the past. I must also say we are very much impressed by, and very much admire the ability which has been shown by the right hon. Gentleman, the Chief Secretary for Ireland in mastering the details of a most difficult and complicated subject, and the skill he has shown in conducting it to a successful issue. The right hon. Gentleman has always been most ready to afford any of us an opportunity of laying our views before him and has listened with extreme patience and consideration to our arguments, though, unfortunately, it often happened that he was not sufficiently impressed by them.

Moved, That this House do agree with the Commons in the Amendments made to their Amendments, and do not insist on their Amendments to which the Commons had disagreed.—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (No. 2) BILL.

[Second Reading].

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord KENYON: My Lords, this Bill has been presented to your Lordships in redemption of a promise made by the President of the Local Government Board in a speech on the Address. It is a simple measure, and the object is to render the working of the Acts with regard to the housing of the working classes simpler by making the repayment of loans extend over a longer period, by establishing the Local Government Board as the one central authority in the place of two—the Home Office and the Local Government Board—and by various minor alterations which are the recommendations of the Joint Committee that sat on this measure. This was practically an agreed Bill in the other House, and I ask your Lordships to read it a second time.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Kenyon.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a: Committee negatived: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended, Bill read 3^a, and passed.

UNFINISHED CONDITION OF THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER.

*Lord STANMORE, who had given notice, "To move that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire and report with respect to the unfinished condition of the rooms in the Palace of Westminster appropriated to the service of this House, and their approaches," said: My Lords, I need hardly say that on the last day but one of the session I shall not press for the appointment of a Committee which could not sit if it were appointed; but in withdrawing the Motion I wish to give notice that I shall repeat it at an early period next session, and I hope that in the interval His

Majesty's Government and the noble Lord at the head of the Office of Works will give some little attention to the matter to which it relates. I wish also to remove the impression that it is with regard to the decoration of the House that I am principally concerned. That is not so. It is the unfinished character of the existing state of things which I desire to see dealt with. The original designs of Sir Charles Barry for the wall space of this House adopted a very different treatment from that which we now see, and it was altered in order that these large panels might be filled with pictures. Whether they should be filled with pictures or not is an open question. If they are not filled with pictures then they should be finished according to the original designs of the architect, and should not be left, as they have been for many years, an eyesore. We who come here habitually have got accustomed to them and do not notice them, but they make a very bad impression on all strangers who come to see what might be a magnificent building. Before I sit down I should like to thank the noble Lord the First Commissioner of Works for the courtesy with which he has met my wishes on the subject, and has disinterred what remains of the frescoes in the Upper Lobby of the House. Most of them are destroyed beyond repair, but there is one, the picture of Lear and his daughters, which is still a very pleasing picture though the head of one of the ladies is gone. I cannot but think that means might be found to restore that head. May I be permitted to make one suggestion? It is this, that the noble Lord will seek, in a quarter to which we do not generally look for guidance in matters of art, for an illustration of what my wishes are with regard to this House. That quarter is the Corporation of the City of London. The cloister of the Royal Exchange has round it panels of much the same area, though of different shape, as those in St. Stephen's Gallery. The Corporation of the City of London have gone on year after year filling those panels with pictures by Lord Leighton and other eminent artists. They are not finished, and there are many still to be put in, but the course adopted is exactly what I would desire His Majesty's Government to take in the case of the Palace of Westminster. At comparatively small expense, if it is persisted in year after year, the unfinished condition of the rooms in the Palace might be gradually remedied, and works of art worthy of admiration placed in the sites intended for them.

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Lord WINDSOR): My Lords, the noble Lord, in withdrawing the Motion which he had put down on the Paper, gave notice that he proposes to renew his Motion in another session. I think that relieves me of the necessity of entering at this moment at any length into the questions which are involved. I shall be glad, however, to deal with one matter to which he referred—namely, the condition of the frescoes in the upper waiting hall. I should like to inform the House that Professor Church was asked to examine those frescoes, and he reported that in his opinion they were all of them in a condition which made it useless to endeavour to restore them or to spend any money upon them. But with regard to the particular frescoe to which my noble friend has drawn attention—the Lear frescoe—I shall certainly ask Professor Church to look at that one again in case he thinks that anything might be done to preserve it. With regard to the general question, may I just say that I, for my part, sympathise very greatly with the object which the noble Lord has in view. I do not doubt that all of your Lordships who take an interest in the decoration of buildings and the completion of buildings which had in their original design a certain scheme of decoration, sympathise with the noble Lord in the object which he has in view. At the same time he will forgive me for saying that, however much I sympathise with him in this object, I still feel—and I know His Majesty's Government generally feel—that one must observe a sense of proportion as to the works necessary to be undertaken. Owing to the great expansion of the chief Government Departments of late, very large demands have to be made upon the Treasury for absolutely necessary works in order to keep pace with those requirements. Only a moment ago your Lordships passed the Public Buildings Expenses Bill through all its stages, and I feel that it would be rather losing the sense of proportion if the work of completing the decoration of the Palace of Westminster were to be urged upon the Treasury at this time when other important works have to be undertaken. At the same time I promise my noble friend that I will consider the matter.

The subject then dropped.

WAR OFFICE TRACTION ENGINES.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I beg to ask whether the Secretary of State for War has issued any order directing the drivers of traction engines employed by the War Office to conform to the limits of speed laid down by, and the other regulations contained in, the Locomotives Act, 1865; and to move an Address for a copy of any such order. This question arose in this way. The Urban District Council of Aldershot forwarded for the consideration of the County Council of Hampshire, a memorial from the inhabitants of Aldershot complaining that the traction engines connected with the Army had been running through the streets of Aldershot at a rate higher than they had any right to run under the Locomotives Act, 1865; that those traction engines were of a weight greater than was authorised under the Act; and that they in other respects violated the provisions of the Act. The County Council communicated with the Standing Joint Committee of the county, who, in their turn, communicated with the chief constable, and the constabulary were instructed by the chief constable to attend to the matter. They found that the representations of the people of Aldershot were correct, and that the traction engines were in the habit of going above the rate of two miles an hour through the streets of Aldershot to the damage of the thoroughfares and also to the annoyance of the inhabitants. Therefore, the police were instructed to prosecute, and they took proceedings at the Petty Sessions against the driver of one of these traction engines. There was no question whatever as to the facts of the case. It was admitted that he had been going at a higher speed than two miles an hour, and a small penalty was imposed upon him for this breach of the law.

A circumstance subsequently arose which had not been considered before. The driver thought it desirable to lodge an appeal against the decision of the Petty Sessions on the ground that as the Crown was not mentioned in the Act of 1865 the servant of a contractor to the Government might be considered to be exempt from the provisions of the Act by reason of the prerogative of the Crown. The law in this country is a very curious one, and it turned out, when the case came before the Divisional Court, that servants of contractors do come within the prerogative of the Crown, and therefore are not amenable to the law. Accordingly the conviction was quashed, and the police were rendered powerless to deal with this nuisance. This was the reason why I raised a similar question in connection with the Motor-Cars Bill. Your Lordships agreed to a clause distinctly placing servants of the Crown under the provisions of the Motor-Cars Bill, and I desire in this connection to express my obligation to the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland and to the President of the Local Government Board for the manner in which they considered this question. I think it is quite clear, now that the principle has been accepted that servants of the Crown should be made liable to legislation of this kind, that it ought to apply to the Locomotives Act, 1865. In view of the decision which has been adopted in the case of the Motor-Cars Bill, it is really incumbent upon the different Departments of the Government to take care that the servants of the Crown, under them, conform to the provisions of other Acts of a similar kind. I may mention that, although some representations have been made to the War Office in this matter, the nuisance continues, and only on Monday last one of the representatives of Aldershot on the Hampshire County Council stated, at the meeting of that council, that the nuisance continued, and that the present state of things constituted a danger to the inhabitants.

Moved, that an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for any order that may have been issued by the Secretary of State for War directing the drivers of traction engines employed by the War Office to conform to the limits of speed laid down by, and the other regulations contained in, the Locomotives Act, 1865.—(*The Earl of Northbrook.*)

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of HARDWICKE): My Lords, it is quite true, as the noble Earl has stated, that representations have been made to the War Office on this matter, and the War Office have had under consideration the manner in which effect can be given to the noble Earl's wishes. The noble Earl has mentioned a case which occurred at Aldershot, and which came before the High Court. That, so far as I am aware, is the only case which has come before the Courts, but no doubt, as the noble Earl says, other instances have occurred. I can only express regret that the instructions issued by the War Office have not been complied with. I may say that in 1901 instructions were issued with respect to the pace at which traction engines in the employ of the War Office might move. The order that I refer to was dated 17th January, 1901, and, after stating that at several stations difficulty had arisen with the local authorities with regard to compliance with the provisions of the various Highways and Locomotives Acts, the Instruction proceeded—

> "It will be observed, from the paper marked B enclosed, that, while it is not admitted that the War Department is bound by any of the Acts in question, their provisions, except as regards taking out licences, should on no account be ignored, other than for some special and unavoidable military necessity."

On the representations made to me by the noble Earl I instituted inquiries, and as a result received information from the General Officer commanding the First Army Corps, Sir John French, that, so far as he is aware, the drivers of the War Department's engines are perfectly well aware of the regulation issued in 1901, and have not exceeded the limit of speed at which they are allowed to go. I must admit, of course, that that Instruction did not refer, either directly or indirectly, to engines employed by War Office contractors, and, if I understood the noble Earl correctly, the nuisance to which he refers has occurred through the driving of traction engines belonging to contractors at a speed in excess of the limit allowed by the Act of 1865.

The War Office cannot agree to comply with the Locomotives Act, 1865, with regard to the weight of traction engines. As a matter of fact, the War Office at the present time possess a considerable number of traction engines which are above the legal weight; but, so far as the speed at which they are allowed to move is concerned, we will do everything we can to carry out the wishes of the noble Earl. I may say that it is proposed to again issue an order to all officers commanding to the effect that no officer will be allowed to authorise the driving of, and no driver will be allowed to drive, a traction engine in excess of the speed limit—namely, two miles an hour in a town, and four miles on the high road in the country; but, at the same time, we must reserve to ourselves, under very special circumstances, power to allow these engines to exceed this limit. The order, however, will contain a direct instruction that this permission to exceed, in very special circumstances, the legal limit can only be given under the authority of the General Officer commanding an Army Corps or district. I think the noble Earl may rest assured that it will be only in very special circumstances that this power will be given. We propose to apply this order to contractors in War Office employ who use traction engines, and also to say that if on any occasion they are stopped by the police for exceeding the legal limit, they cannot expect to rely on the Treasury to set up the plea that they are justified in their action, owing to their being in the service of the Crown.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I do not think the answer which the noble Earl has given can be regarded as very satisfactory. It is no doubt quite true that, technically, the War Office is exempt from these regulations, but it certainly seems to me that they ought to conform to them to the utmost possible extent. With regard to the limit of speed, no doubt, as the noble Lord has said, regulations will be issued applying not only to traction engines which belong to the War Office, but also to those belonging to contractors, and that contractors will not be permitted in future to plead that they are in the employment of the War Office. But I do not exactly see how the War Office can prevent contractors putting in that plea, if they are entitled to do so under the law.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I speak under correction, but I think it requires that the War Office should take up the defence. In the case to which the noble Earl referred, the Treasury took up the case.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: Then I understand that the War Office in future will not take up the case of any contractor whose traction engine may exceed the speed limit?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: That is so.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I do not even think it is necessary that the War Office should break the law in respect to the weight of their engines. Whatever may be their rights, surely it would be better if they were to conform to the general law of the country in this matter.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: The noble Marquess must understand that the traction engines to which I refer, and which are in excess of the legal weight, have been built.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My noble friend near me has done good service in calling your Lordships' attention to this matter. It is not only at Aldershot that this danger is experienced, for only the other day, when I was returning from Kensington to Hyde Park Corner in a hansom, I passed a traction engine drawing three huge vans. It was really a train going through the streets, and I do not think such a thing ought to be allowed. In this case a collision resulted at the corner of a road. I certainly think that these traction trains ought to be absolutely forbidden in the Metropolis. I venture to throw out this suggestion to whoever is responsible for the Department having jurisdiction in this matter.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I am much obliged to the noble Earl the Under Secretary for the assurance he has given that instructions will be issued to the effect that the speed limit shall not be exceeded by War Office contractors, or by those in the employ of the War Office. But I think the fact that the traction engines owned by the War Office exceed the weight laid down by the Act is a very serious matter. One of the main complaints on the part of the people of Aldershot is that these heavy engines tear up the roads and interfere with the gas and other pipes laid under the thoroughfares. I beg to give notice that I shall make further inquiry into this matter, and it seems to me, that unless the Government do it, some other Member of your Lordship's House, should, in the next session of Parliament, introduce a short Bill enacting a similar clause to that which has been accepted by both Houses of Parliament in the Motor-Cars Bill to be applied to all similar Acts of Parliament for the safety of the public.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, I am bound to say I thought the answer of my noble friend the Under Secretary was a fair one on the merits of the Question as it appears on the Paper. The discussion, however, has somewhat widened. Of course, no one can object to the noble Earl bringing in a legislative proposal at a future period, and I have no doubt the Government will judge of it when they see it. In the meantime, equally, no one can object to the continuance of the inquiries which the noble Earl foreshadows. I can hardly believe it possible, and I do not understand it to be said, that War Office engines have done damage to water pipes and mains, and that a representation made to the War Office has not had proper attention paid to it. I am sure that if it was brought to the notice of any Government Department that their machines of any kind were doing that sort of damage, it would be taken into consideration, and the local authority would be met. So far as the speed of these engines is concerned, I think the answer of the Under-Secretary a very fair one. I do not understand that it is intended as a practice to drive these engines at a speed greater than the legal limit, but if manœuvres are going on, and the troops change their positions, as they must do, it is not unreasonable that, so far as it may be necessary, those who are supplying the needs of the troops, at night, should go a little over the limit if, under exceptional circumstances, it was necessary. That, I understand, is the main reservation of the noble Earl the Under-Secretary, and it seems to me a very reasonable one in the circumstances.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I expressly stated that contained in the petition of the inhabitants of Aldershot was a complaint that the streets were being damaged by these traction engines. I did not know until to-day that the War Office had traction engines above the legal weight. If that is the case, they ought not to be used on the Aldershot roads. I can assure the noble Lord that complaints have been made to the War Office, and to the best of my knowledge, those complaints have not been attended to, because, as late as Monday last, at the meeting of the Hampshire County Council, a representative of Aldershot stated that the nuisance had not been abated.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I have no objection to the granting of the Return moved for by the noble Earl, but it is rather an unusual thing for an ordinary military order to be laid on the Table of the House.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: As it is a question of a nuisance to the public, I think it is right that the order should be laid on the Table.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: It is an established principle that if a Minister or any representative of a Government Department quotes a public document in this House, it should be laid on the Table.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I have not quoted a public document. I merely quoted a draft of a proposed order.

On Question, Motion agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

SUBSIDIES TO SHIPPING COMPANIES —THE CUNARD AGREEMENT.

*EARL SPENCER, who had given notice "To call the attention of the First Lord of the Admiralty to the arrangement lately made between His Majesty's Government and the Cunard Company, giving the Company a subsidy and a loan for putting a number of ships at the disposal of the Government under certain circumstances; and to move for a Return showing: (1) The amount, and date, and duration of previous subsidies to various shipping companies, and the number of ships embraced in these arrangements, with the speed of the ships; (2) The number of ships and their speed embraced in the present arrangement with the Cunard Company," said: My Lords, This is not the first occasion that the subject to which my Question refers has been before your Lordships. There was a debate initiated by my noble friend, Lord Brassey—who, I am sorry to say, is not in England and is therefore unable to take part in this debate—which led up to this very subject, and I then took the opportunity of expressing some general views which I hold on the subject of subsidies. This subject was debated in the House of Commons last night, and I need hardly say that many of the arguments that I wish to bring forward were used with effect on that occasion. I attach considerable importance to the question of subsidies. Now, what are subsidies? They may be of several kinds. They may refer to payments for money earned, like postal subsidies; they may be made to encourage commerce; they may refer to naval objects, and they may also be political in their character. If we look for a moment at the subsidies which are made much more frequently, and on a different basis, abroad, we find that they touch nearly all these different points. I am not going into the question of foreign subsidies, but I think I may say this, that though they have been successful in a certain number of cases, in other cases, where very considerable expense has been incurred in regard to subsidies to the merchant service, they have not been successful. In regard to successful subsidies, we have the example of Germany, and for an example of unsuccessful subsidies I think we may point to France.

Now, my Lords, what is our position with regard to this question? Our subsidies go almost entirely in two directions; there are the postal subsidies and the naval subsidies. The former amount to an enormous sum of money—between £700,000 and £800,000 a year. There are as usual some complaints. No company thinks they get quite as much as they ought to; but I think the subsidies for the postal service are on a liberal scale, and secure what we pay for very adequately. Then we come to naval subsidies. I recollect very well that question arising while I had the honour to be

First Lord of the Admiralty. It so happened that within a very few weeks, I might almost say days, of the new Board of Admiralty, over which I presided, taking office, agreements were signed in regard to very important subsidies for various shipping purposes which we could not possibly, even if we had so desired, have refused to enter into. I have always held that these subsidies could not be defended. During the time I was in office we did renew some portion of one subsidy that had come to an end, but the reason we did that was that we could not, by refusing it, deal with the whole subject, and as the whole subject would have to come up at a later period, we thought it would be better to wait until that time arrived. What I have always felt with regard to naval subsidies to the mercantile marine was this, that there was practically no necessity for them. The great shipping companies are naturally very glad to get £8,000 or £10,000 a year to swell their funds and meet the dividends required by the shareholders; but, with regard to naval requirements, I do not believe there is any necessity for these subsidies. Even if merchant cruisers of great speed are needed, the Admiralty could easily get ships in time of war which would fulfil all their requirements.

I acknowledge that in some respects these merchant cruisers do service to the Navy by providing and encouraging naval reserves. There are many officers, engineers, and men on the great liners who belong to the Royal Naval Reserve, and in this way they do meet a requirement of the Navy; but at the same time I have never thought that merely for the sake of naval reserve men you were justified in paying this very large sum. When there was a scare in the eighties, and we were making preparations for a naval war, the Navy were able to take up a great many ships which entirely answered their expectations. The ships of great speed belonging to the Navy have increased immensely since those days, and the number of cruisers of great speed are considerably more numerous than they were when this policy was first initiated. I find that this matter is referred to by the First Lord of the Admiralty in his annual Report, in which he indicates that in the opinion of the Board this is the most economical method of effectually meeting a special need. The noble Lord refers to a very important Report of a Committee in another place, presided over, I think, by Mr. Evelyn Cecil. It is an exceedingly interesting Report, and well worthy of perusal. The Committee say that a general system of subsidies, other than for services of the country, is costly and inexpedient. I quite admit that later on they do refer to some special occasions when they consider it may be necessary or desirable, under certain conditions, to give subsidies.

Subsequently in the House of Commons, the Secretary to the Admiralty stated—I believe it was in the beginning of July—that in the exercise of their own judgment, and fortified by the recommendations of the Committee to which I have just referred, the Admiralty did not propose, when the time came for renewing these agreements, that they should be renewed. That was a very important declaration. It seemed to agree with the view I had taken. But what has happened? We now have a very important agreement with a great Transatlantic Company—namely, the Cunard Company. His Majesty's Government have gone into subsidies on a new scale, and on a very much larger scale than they have ever done before. I should like to know what gave rise to this agreement. I cannot help thinking that it is the outcome of what I may call the "Do something" policy. I have once or twice noticed that His Majesty's Government, when they are in difficulty and the country is calling out and attacking them for want of action, suddenly take some action which I think they are afterwards rather sorry they have taken. I am not saying this with reference to the action of the noble Earl opposite on this particular point, but I think this arrangement with the Cunard Company was the result of the panic caused by what is called the Pierpont Morgan combine. At that time there was a most exaggerated feeling as to the disastrous harm this combination would do to the commerce of the country.

It has been said that if the Government had not proposed this arrangement this great company would have joined the combine, but I can hardly think that; and that it was to prevent the absorption of the Cunard Company that the arrangement lately made between

His Majesty's Government and that company was entered into. From what I have heard, there is not any longer any great fear to be entertained from the operations of the combine. In its working the combination has not been so successful as it was expected to be by those who brought it into operation, and I think we need not fear very much from it. I would ask your Lordships to consider for a moment the financial aspect of this arrangement with the Cunard Company. This is a very large, well-known and well-managed company. It has been stated that the present market value of its shares is £1,200,000; that the nominal value is £1,600,000, and that the value of its ships is £2,000,000. Now, what is this arrangement that has been entered into with the Cunard Company? The arrangement gives great pecuniary assistance to this company. The company has, first of all, to provide two ships which are to have a speed of twenty-four or twenty-five knots in moderate weather. In order to secure that, His Majesty's Government proposes to grant the company a loan of £2,600,000 at 2¾ per cent.—an exceedingly low rate of interest—to be repaid in twenty years. There is also an enormous subsidy to be paid—£150,000 a year—during the same period. This arrangement, it seems to me, is on a very excessively liberal scale for the consideration that is given. I believe that the contracts with other companies will come to an end in 1905, and that then we shall rely solely upon this contract with the Cunard Company.

Some of the terms of the agreement are, no doubt, quite proper, but some are very remarkable. One of the terms is that the Cunard Company are not to raise freights without the sanction of His Majesty's Government. It is rather a novel proceeding that His Majesty's Government should take an active part in regulating the finance of a great shipping company, which is supported by an enormous number of shareholders. Another of the terms is that there is to be no preference given as against British subjects. Many of us think that that might be a good thing, but it is going a long way commercially in giving a subsidy to this company. I should like to ask whether we are really getting our money's worth for this enormous sum. One of the reasons why I have moved for a Return, in this form, is that we may compare the new arrangement which is proposed with the old one in regard to rates of speed. We have always had a larger number of ships of the merchant fleet capable of going at a high speed than almost any other country. It is only within the last few years that one of the German lines has built two tremendously large ships capable of going at a speed, I think, of twenty-three knots.

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): Twenty-four.

*EARL SPENCER: Is this merely a question of vanity? Cannot this country support the idea that any other country can, even temporarily, have merchant ships of a greater speed than ours? I hardly think that it is a sufficient reason for entering into this agreement. No doubt I shall be told that it is not a mere question of vanity, but one of necessity for the Navy, and that it would not be safe if ships of other countries remained with greater speed power than any ships we have. But in order to meet this, we are going to have only two ships. Will the two ships provided for in the agreement be sufficient, or are we merely taking the first plunge into what will be an enormous expenditure? I doubt very much, if we begin, whether two ships will be considered sufficient. We must bear in mind that these vessels cannot be put into the line of battle. They are absolutely unfit to be considered as fighting ships. They may have a gun or two, but they will have no armour defence, and they are not in any sense to be compared with modern cruisers. They will serve the purpose of speedy and rapid scouts, going from one fleet, perhaps, to another. That, so far as I can make out, will be their principal object.

Again, why is it the Cunard Company alone is selected? There will undoubtedly be jealousy created on the part of other companies. Your Lordships must remember that other companies already have ships going within two knots or so of these ships. I should like to know what the experts say, from a naval point of view, as to the absolute necessity of having ships which cannot be put into the line of battle. You propose to take these very fast ships away from the ordinary business of the line. Many people think that the best ships will be more needed in time of war for freight than as scouts for the Navy. I think that is an important point for consideration. I thought it of the utmost moment to bring this subject before your Lordships, as I do not believe that the first step in so great a transaction should be taken without obtaining from the Government their reasons on financial, naval, and even commercial grounds for what they propose. I have thought it well to make some criticisms and to ask some Questions, but I do not do so in any hostile spirit, but rather in an enquiring spirit. At present I certainly am not favourable to these proposals, but I shall listen with great care and attention to what my noble friend the First Lord of the Admiralty may say upon them; and if he can prove that the proposals are necessary for the strength and safety of the Navy in time of war, and can only be secured on the terms announced, I shall certainly modify my view. I beg to move the Motion standing in my name.

Moved, That there be laid before the House a return showing—

1. The amount, and date, and duration of any subsidies given in the past by His Majesty's Government to shipping companies, and the number of ships embraced in these arrangements, with the speed of the ships.

2. The number of ships and their speed embraced in the present arrangement with the Cunard Company.—(*Earl Spencer.*)

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: My Lords, it is always a great pleasure, if he will allow me to say so, to follow the noble Earl in discussing naval affairs, for generally I am in the very happy position of finding myself in agreement with him as to naval policy; but to-night, I am more unfortunate than usual. I shall try, however, to convince him, before I sit down, that what the Government has done, has in its naval aspect, at all events, been wisely done. I will not follow the noble Earl at length in the early part of his speech, in which he dealt with the history of naval subsidies. I do not agree with him. I think that when subsidised merchant cruisers were first established they supplied a real need; and it is only because, in the opinion of the Board of Admiralty, circumstances have entirely changed, and they no longer can supply that need, that we resolved not to continue any of the present subsidy agreements. That is owing, not to an opinion that former Boards have been wrong, but to the opinion that circumstances have entirely altered. The noble Earl asks: Is it consistent, on the one hand, to abandon the old policy of subsidies, and, on the other, to embark on this very large and almost startling policy in respect of the two new Cunarders? I think I can show him that there is no inconsistency whatever in our action. Just as the old policy was abandoned because the needs which it was created to meet had passed away, so the new policy has been adopted to meet new and special needs, which could not be met in other ways and more economically.

Before I deal with the naval aspect of this agreement, I wish to emphasise strongly that this agreement is not a naval agreement pure and simple; the naval aspect is only one of the aspects of the agreement. I do not for a moment conceal the fact—on the contrary, I assert it—that the agreement has a direct connection with the Morgan combination of last year. I do not expect the noble Lord, from what he has said, to concur with me, but I say, without hesitation, that in my opinion it would have been a very serious thing indeed, if the whole of the great Atlantic lines had passed into the hands of a foreign association. The noble Earl said that the fears we held a year ago about the effect of this combine have been proved to be unfounded. I think it is rather early for the noble Earl to form a final judgment on that subject.

But, putting that argument on one side, has it not occurred to him that there is a great difference between an association that does not include one of the principal lines, and one that embraced them all? I am not in the secrets of the Cunard Company, and therefore cannot speak with authority, but I have, myself, no doubt whatever that, if the Government had not intervened in the matter, the Cunard Company would have been forced into the American combine, and the result would have been that we should not have had one great line of steamers under British control on the Atlantic.

Therefore, I assert, in the plainest manner, that this agreement is not merely a naval one; it has wider and national aspects as well as a naval aspect.

Now I pass on to the naval aspect, and so far as that aspect of the case is concerned, it had nothing whatever to do with the Morgan combination. The Admiralty had been anxiously considering the question before they knew of the Morgan combine, and as far back as 26th April last year the Admiralty appointed the Committee presided over by Lord Camperdown, which was the result of a consideration of this question, which certainly had begun weeks before I heard of the possibility of the Morgan combination. If the noble Earl will turn to the Report which was laid before Parliament some time ago, he will see how all these questions were raised. The first paragraph in the Reference of that Report, which is signed by Sir Evan Macgregor, contains the statement that he was commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to state that, as the fastest ships in the mercantile marine now in existence were not registered as British vessels, the time had come, in their Lordships' opinion, to reconsider the principles on which subsidies were now being given, with a view to securing (1) greater horse power, and therefore greater speed; (2) that merchant steamers once subsidised, shall not be transferred to a foreign flag without the consent of the Board of Admiralty; and so on.

What was the naval case we had to meet? In time of naval war the Navy has two functions to perform. One is to subdue the battle fleets of the enemy, and to achieve and maintain the command of the sea; but its second and much more difficult function is to give adequate protection to the great ocean commerce of this country. What were the facts with which the Board of Admiralty were confronted? They were confronted with the fact that there were afloat at least two—and there were being built, I think, two more—ocean steamships which, owing to their great horsepower and the enormous amount of coal they could carry in time of war, were in such a position that there was not a single cruiser in the Navy that could by any possibility hope ever to catch them. I ask your Lordships to picture the state of public opinion in this country in time of naval war, if it were found that there were two, three, or four merchant cruisers on the sea that were able absolutely to defy all His Majesty's cruisers, and were picking up merchant steamer after merchant steamer just as they pleased. What would public opinion have said of an Admiralty that had entirely ignored in their calculations the existence of any such ships? Would there not have been something very like a panic amongst the insurance offices? Would not all our calculations as to what would be the course of trade in time of war have been upset by such an absolutely unprecedented state of affairs?

The Board of Admiralty were unanimously of opinion that that was an evil for which a remedy had to be found, and the only question was, What was the cheapest and most economical method of finding that remedy? It was just at that moment that the American combination was made public, and when it became clear that such a state of affairs as I have described existed, then, of course, the Admiralty seized the opportunity as one that could help them to meet the situation. Whatever anyone may think as to the wisdom or unwisdom of the course the Admiralty took, I am perfectly certain that no-one who goes into the figures can contend for one single moment that this particular want could have been supplied in any cheaper way. It would have cost far more if the Admiralty had attempted to build cruisers able to compete in steam power and coal-carrying capacity with these liners. It would not only have been a case of their original cost, but of their annual maintenance and of dock accommodation. Therefore, whatever may be the opinion as to the wisdom or unwisdom of the policy adopted, given the assumption that this evil had to be remedied, I am quite confident that nobody giving the matter careful consideration could come to any other conclusion than that this was the cheapest way of remedying it.

Now I pass to the noble Earl's criticisms on the financial terms of the agreement. I do not think if the noble Earl were to consult the great steamship owners they would tell him that the

Cunard Company had made other than a perfectly fair bargain. I do not think they would say that the Cunard Company were to receive an enormous present, exceeding the value of the services which it had engaged to render. The House must remember that neither the Cunard Company nor any other company would for commercial reasons have dreamt for one moment of building such ships. They are strictly uncommercial ships, and if the Cunard Company had been left to themselves I should be greatly surprised if they thought of building ships to go at a speed of over twenty-one knots. These ships are to steam between twenty-four and twenty-five knots. The strong Committee, over which Lord Camperdown presided, and which contained authorities like Admiral Fitzgerald and Professor Biles, went into the question of cost, and to show you how greatly the speed affects the cost, I will quote some figures from their tables. They calculated that the first cost of a liner of twenty-one knots would be £400,000; of twenty-three knots, £575,000; of twenty-four knots, £850,000; and of twenty-five knots, £1,000,000—that is to say, the difference in the speed from twenty-one to twenty-five knots an hour made a difference in the cost of £600,000, or that the faster ship cost two and a-half times the original cost of a ship of twenty-one knots. They also calculated that for the Government to obtain the services of one ship of twenty-five knots as a subsided merchant cruiser, we would have to pay £149,000 a year for an agreed term of, I believe, ten years. On a twenty years' basis we have made an arrangement for two ships, for £150,000 a year. Therefore, I think it cannot be said that we have exceeded the limits which an impartial Committee recommended after careful calculation.

As regards the other terms and stipulations which the noble Earl quoted, I think it is the duty of the Government, when we are concluding such a bargain, to get all the advantage we can not only for the Navy, but for British trade also. Surely it would be rather a scandalous thing if ships subsidised, as these are to be, were used to raise freights in an undue manner, or to give an advantage to foreign goods over British goods. Therefore, I think, these stipulations were only reasonable. As regards the inclusion of a lien in time of war on other ships of the fleet, of course, according to the policy which the Admiralty has adopted, a separate agreement for that purpose would not have been made, but when this general arrangement was being framed it was thought that it would be an advantage that a lien should exist on the other ships; and I do not think the most rigid approver of the general principle of not subsidising low-speed ships would object, in a special case like this, to their inclusion in the general terms of the agreement. I trust that, if I have not convinced the noble Earl, I have at any rate made clear what the policy of the Government and the Admiralty has been, and I need not say I have no objection whatever to the Return for which the noble Earl has moved.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

SHIPPING FREIGHTS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

EARL GREY, who had given notice "To move for a Return giving the rates per ton on shipments of rails consigned to South African ports by His Majesty's Government between the years 1898 and 1903," said: My Lords, I understood the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies to say yesterday, in the course of his answer to my question as to the manner in which the Crown Agents place their freight contracts, that it was possible that my interest in this question was due to my belief that the British South Africa Company had been more successful than the Colonial Office in placing their freight contracts; and he suggested that this belief, which I own I entertain, was due to the difference between the character and bulk of the consignments shipped to South Africa by the British South Africa Company and His Majesty's Government respectively. I wish to impress upon the noble Duke, who is responsible for calling the British South Africa Company as witness, that in my opinion the startling disparity which I believe has existed between the cost of similar services rendered by shipowners to His Majesty's Government and the British South Africa Company does not arise from any difference between the character and value of their freights, but is due simply and entirely to a difference in their business methods.

I am under the impression—the noble Duke will correct me if I am wrong—that His Majesty's Government has paid sums ranging from 25s. to as high as 33s. per ton for the shipment of rails required for the South African railways at the same time that a freight of 17s. per ton was all that was paid for rails required for the Rhodesia Railways. The reason of this startling difference I believe to be that the Government traded exclusively with the Conference lines, and the Rhodesia Railways resorted to shipowners outside the Conference. I heard with great satssfaction the announcement of the noble Duke laat night that all shipowners would have an opportnnity of tendering for Government freights. It may be urged that the Government having come to this decision it is unnecessary to call for a Return showing the rates paid on consignments of rails to South Africa. My reason for wishing to obtain the figures which would be shown by this Return is that I desire to have the evidence of facts which will show the importance of open competition, and how greatly the State suffers from the adoption of a system of close trading. It is my belief that if the Government had adopted the same business methods as have been practised by the British South African Co. an enormous saving of public money would have been effected, and my object in moving for this Return is to provide evidence which will be instrumental in saving a recurrence of similar waste of public money in the future.

'Moved, for a Return giving the rates per ton on shipments of rails consigned to South African ports by His Majesty's Government between the years 1898 and 1903."—(*Earl Grey.*)

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (The Duke of MARLBOROUGH): My Lords, I can assure the noble Earl that when I stated last night that he appeared to think that the methods adopted by the British South Africa Company enabled a cheaper rate of freight to be secured than those obtained by the Crown Agents, I did not say it in any feeling of disrespect to the noble Lord or to the Company in question, and I rather gather that the noble Earl has this afternoon endorsed the statement I then made. The noble Earl may be correct in his view that the rates obtained by the British South Africa Company are better than those which the Crown Agents are able to secure at present. That is not the opinion of the Colonial Office. I think I explained to the noble Earl last night that the Crown Agents are frequently called upon to make assignments at very short notice, and they cannot send these small freights at such a cheap rate as a Company like the British South African Company, which probably orders many months before the undertaking is carried out.

The noble Earl asks for a somewhat comprehensive Return. He wishes for a Return of the rates per ton on shipments of rails consigned to South African ports by His Majesty's Government between the years 1898 and 1903. I am sorry to inform him that it would be impossible to give him any facts concerning the rates per ton on shipments of rails prior to the year 1899. Prior to that time the Boer Republic, if they ordered any rails from England, did so on their own authority, and we had no control over their orders; and the Governments of Natal and the Cape, being self-governing Colonies, were entitled to give what orders they liked, and so far as the Colonial Office are concerned, we have no control over the arrangements made by them with regard to freights. Then we come to the year 1899, when the War broke out. The noble Earl is well aware that as soon as War was declared the Military undertook the management of the railways, and I imagine that any consignment of rails they wished to have from this country in order either to repair the railways or to enlarge them, were sent out in their own transports; if not, I suppose they made arrangements either through the Crown Agents or through other shipping agencies. I am sure the noble Earl will not ask me to attempt to state what those arrangements were, and I do not know whether my noble friend the Under-Secretary for War will be able to give him any information.

We come then to the termination of the war in July, 1902. From that date the Civil authorities in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony took over the railways, and I do not think there would be any difficulty at all in furnishing the noble Earl with a Return from that date to the present time. The noble Earl has not given me many hours notice, and I am unable therefore to give more definite information; but this much I can promise him, that during the recess and before the meeting of Parliament next year, a statement shall be got out showing exactly the rates per ton on shipments of rails consigned to South African ports by His Majesty's Government during the last twelve months; and I hope that when this statement is drawn up and circulated it will remove some of those doubts which the noble Earl at present holds, that the arrangements conducted by the Crown Agents on behalf of the Colonial Office are not so satisfactory as those that have been conducted in the past by the British South Africa Company.

EARL GREY: I could not give the noble Duke longer notice, because my Motion for a Return is the outcome of his statement last night. I understand that he will grant me the Return in a limited form namely, from July, 1902; but I would prefer it from the 1st of January of that year if possible.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: I thought I made it quite clear to the noble Earl that prior to July, 1902, the matter of these freights was entirely in the hands of another Department of State, and it would be impossible and improper on my part to promise to make a Return which belongs to another Department. But the noble Earl shall certainly be furnished with the rates per ton on shipments from 1st July, 1902, to date.

On Question, Motion, as amended, agreed to.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before seven o'clock, until To-morrow, Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 13*th August*, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

They have agreed to Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation Bill without Amendment.

Amendments to Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords] without Amendment.

PETITION.

SOUTH AFRICA (COST OF GARRISON).

Petition from London, against contribution by India; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT).

Copy presented, of Ninth Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom, 1901-2 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

"OPTIONS" AND "FUTURES" IN FOOD-STUFFS (LEGISLATION).

Copies presented, of Reports from the Canadian Government and from His Majesty's Representatives abroad on legislative measures respecting gambling in "Option" and "Future" Contracts as regards food-stuffs [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending the West Manchester Light Railways Order, 1899, and authorising the construction of additional light railways in the parish and urban district of Stretford and county of Lancaster (West Manchester Light Railways (Extensions and Amendment) Order, 1903) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the parishes of Wotton St. Mary (Without), Barnwood, Hucclecote, and Brockworth, in the county of Gloucester (County of Gloucester (Gloucester and Brockworth) Light Railways Order, 1903) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the city of Gloucester (Gloucester Corporation Light Railways Order, 1903) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending the Callington Light Railway Order, 1900, Callington Light Railway (Extension of Time) Order, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Copy presented, of Memoranda, Statistical Tables and Charts prepared in the Board of Trade with reference to various matters bearing on British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S TRAINS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 12th August; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 347.]

LUNACY (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of 52nd Report, with Appendices, of Inspectors of Lunatics (Ireland) for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Education for the year 1902–3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Copy presented, of Two Orders in Council of 10th August, 1903, (a) varying the dues payable in respect of the Basses and Minicoy Lights; and (b) confirming three Merchant Shipping Ordinances enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of Hong-Kong [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894, AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (MERCANTILE MARINE FUND) ACT, 1898.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 10th August, 1903, altering the Scale of Light Dues set out in the Second Schedule to The Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act, 1898 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

DOCKYARD PORTS REGULATION ACT, 1865.

Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 10th August, 1903, making Rules and Regulations for the Dockyard Port of Queenstown [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Copy presented, of Two Orders in Council of 10th August, 1903, entitled The Niger Navigation Order in Council, 1903, and the Niger Transit Order in Council, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, (1899).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 11th August; *The Lord Advocate*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 348.]

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS (SCOTLAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 20th July; *Mr. Cathcart Wason*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 349.]

ASSESSMENTS (COUNTIES, CITIES, AND BURGHS) (SCOTLAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 10th August; *Sir John Stirling-Maxwell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 350.]

LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of the Annual Local Taxation Returns for Scotland for the year 1901–2 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 351.]

CYPRUS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 12th August; *Mr. Pierpoint*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 352.]

COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE) (IRELAND).

Annual Account presented, of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT, 1902–3.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 7th August; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 353.]

AFRICA.

(No. 10, 1903) Copy presented, of Despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Brussels respecting the Commission for the Protection of the Natives, instituted by the Government of the Independent Congo State under the Decree of 18th September, 1896 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3058 to 3065 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FRENCH LAW OF ASSOCIATION. (MISCELLANEOUS, No. 4, 1903).

Copy presented, of Correspondence respecting the application of the French Law of Association to Institutions of British origin [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRANSPORTS (SOUTH AFRICAN WAR).

Returns presented, relative thereto [ordered 5th August; *Mr. Buchanan*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 354.]

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Return ordered "(I.) Of the Companies registered during the year ended the 31st day of December, 1902, which filed a prospectus and to which certificates to commence business have been granted, stating—

(1) The date of registration.

(2) The date of the prospectus.

(3) The amount of the nominal capital.

(4) The amount of each share.

(5) The amount issued or to be issued otherwise than for cash.

(6) The amount offered for subscription in cash.

(7) The amount underwritten.

(8) The commission for underwriting.

(9) The minimum subscription required.

(10) The amount allotted before commencing business.

(11) The amounts per share payable on application and allotment.

(12) The total directors' share qualification, if any; and

(13) The date of the certificate to commence business.

(II.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1902 which filed a prospectus, but to which certificates to commence business have not been granted, stating the particulars specified in (I.) so far as they are applicable.

(III.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1902, which filed a declaration that the Company does 'not issue any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares.'

(IV.) Of the Companies registered during the year 1902 which have not filed a prospectus or a declaration that the Company 'does not issue any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares,' and stating the particulars specified in (I.) so far as they are applicable.

(V.) Of the Companies which were dissolved or struck off the register during the year 1902.

(VI.) Of the total number of Companies dissolved during the year 1902 (1) by order of Court; (2) after voluntary liquidation; and (3) pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of The Companies Act, 1880, and Section 26 of The Companies Act, 1900.

(VII.) Of the total number and nominal paid-up and considered as paid-up capital of the Companies registered during the year 1902 in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin respectively, distinguishing Limited Companies from Unlimited, and Companies registered with a nominal capital from Companies registered without such capital.

(VIII.) Of the total number and paid-up capital, including the amounts considered as paid on vendors and other shares, of all Companies having a share capital which were on the register on the 30th day of April, 1903, except such Companies as were in course of liquidation or removal from the register under the provisions of Section 7 of The Companies Act, 1880, and Section 26 of The Companies Act, 1900.

(IX.) Of the total number and nominal capital of the Companies registered in England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, in every year since the commencement of The Companies Act, 1862, to 1902, inclusive.

(X.) Of the fees and capital duty paid in respect of Registered Companies during the year 1902."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND).

Return ordered, "showing (1) the names of permanent officials of the Department on the 1st day of May, 1903; (2) description of office; (3) salary and travelling expenses; (4) date of appointment and previous employment; (5) tenure of office:"

"And, similar Return of officials employed by the various County Councils in Ireland in carrying out the provisions of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act."—(*Mr. M'Govern.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway—Erection of Station at Pennyburn.

MR. McFADDEN (Donegal, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he is aware that a grant was made some years ago to the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company for the erection by them at Pennyburn, Londonderry, of a suitable station, on representation made prior to the making by Government grants of the Carndonagh and Burtonport Railways, in County Donegal, that the station accommodation at Pennyburn would be insufficient for the increased traffic expected over the new lines; and, if so, will he say whether the amount of the grant has been paid to the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company; and, if so, what steps have been taken by them to carry out the undertaking to erect a suitable station.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) No grant was made to the Lough Swilly Company for the erection by them at Pennyburn, Londonderry, of a suitable station.

Balance of Money Collected for Relief of Distress in 1844.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state in whose names the sum of £12,552, 10s. 3d. the balance of the money collected to relieve the distress in the manufacturing districts, was invested in Consols when the account at the Bank of England was closed in June, 1844; and if he will make further inquiry to ascertain how the amount came to be reduced to £4,965, 7s. 10d. in 1874, and what has become of this latter sum.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I have no power enabling me usefully to pursue this matter farther.

Hastings List of Voters—Surcharge by Local Government Auditors.

MR. FREEMAN THOMAS (Hastings): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the fact that an appeal against a surcharge made by the district auditor for Sussex, of the value of copies of lists of voters supplied by the overseers of the parish of Hastings to the political agents, has been before him for decision for over two years, he will explain why there has been such delay in dealing with it.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I am sorry that there should have been delay in this matter, but the legal question involved in the case was one of difficulty, and has been under consideration in connection with some other cases of a similar nature. The case has, however, now been decided, and the decision will be communicated to the parties at once.

Application for Police Court at Dunblane.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Lord Advocate whether he has had an opportunity of inquiring into the application of Dunblane Town Council for the establishment of a police Court for the Burgh; and whether the matter will have the attention of the Government.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The Secretary for Scotland has received a communication from the town clerk of Dunblane on the subject referred to by the hon. Member. Inquiries are now in progress.

Delivery of Letters at Valentia Island.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is now in a position to state whether a second delivery of letters will be established in Valentia Island, County Kerry; and, if so, when it will come into operation.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) A second house to house delivery of letters in Valentia Island would not be warranted. It is doubtful even whether a second service to the island during the summer is warranted, but I have given directions that such a service with a delivery to callers at the post office shall be instituted experimentally during the remainder of the present summer season. The arrangement will come into force as soon as possible.

Early Closing of Straffan Post Office.

MR. LEAMY (Kildare, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that the hour of closing the post office, Straffan, has been altered, with the result that parcels coming by the night mail from Dublin are detained in Straffan till the following morning, and not delivered on application the same night as hitherto; and, if so, will he take steps to restore this facility.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have no information on this subject, but I am making inquiry.

Dismissal of a Belfast Post Office Employee.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a young man named Templeton was some eight months ago dismissed for the offence of having emptied ink upon the head of a workman engaged at the post office, Belfast; that another young man was in like manner dealt with because he withheld for a time information which ultimately convicted Templeton; that a third person who had been a witness to the act, and who also for a time refused to give information, was merely cautioned; and, if so, whether, in view of the difference of treatment of these cases, he will cause inquiry into the administration at Belfast.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The case was dealt with by my predecessor in June, 1901, but I am aware of all the circumstances, and entirely agree with the decision which he arrived at. The difference in the treatment of the two witnesses to Mr. Templeton's misconduct was justified by the fact that one officer had previously a clear record, while the other had not.

Delay in Belfast Mails.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will say the number of times since 1st July last the mails have failed to reach Belfast at 8.40 a.m., and the cause of these delays.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have been unable to obtain the information for which the hon. Member asks in time to answer his Question, but I will communicate the result of my inquiries to him by letter.

Post Office Second Division Clerks.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state the number of men whose names are recorded in the Order in Council, dated 15th August, 1890, as being transferred to clerkships of the Second Division of the Civil Service, who still remain in exactly the same position in which they were thirteen years ago; will he explain why these men (who previous to the issue of the Order in Council had reasonable prospects of advancement) are now ignored in cases of promotion, although Clause 3 of the Order stated that nothing in that Order should place them in a worse position as regards increments of salary, pension, holidays, subsistence, and travelling allowances than that in which they stood before their transfer, and notwithstanding the official assurances given to them before their transfer that their prospects should not suffer; and whether he will cause an inquiry to be made with a view to granting compensation to these men for loss of prospects.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The Order in Council gave power to the Postmaster-General, with the consent of the Treasury, to transfer to the Second Division any or all of the officers whose names are specified in the Schedule to the Order; but, as a matter of fact, only some of the officers in question were actually transferred. None of them remain in exactly the same position as they were before transfer, as they obtained an increased maximum to their scale of pay, and the majority have also received promotion.

Punishment of Dublin Postmen for Mis-delivery of Letters.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state under what circumstances a departure has been introduced in dealing with mis-delivery of letters by postmen in Dublin, and explain why postmen are suspended from duty for a day or more in such cases; and will he see that this punishment is annulled.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have no information on the subject, but I will make inquiry about it.

Unappointed Postmen performing Duty in Dublin Post Office.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will state the number of unappointed postmen performing duty in the Dublin Post Office; the number of appointments made during the past twelve months, also the number now awaiting appointment whose service is over two and a half years; and whether he will consider the advisability of increasing the number of appointments, so that assistant postmen would be appointed within a shorter time than at present.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have not yet received the specific information desired by the hon. Member, but prior to his Question I had instituted inquiry on the subject, and I will communicate with him as soon as I am in a position to do so.

Postal Delays between London and Edinburgh.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: To ask the Postmaster-General if any complaint has reached him of the time occupied in transmitting letters posted in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh to places in the vicinity of London, and *vice versâ*; and, if so, can he state the cause of the delays that have occurred recently.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) If the hon. Member will supply particulars of the cases to which he refers, inquiry shall be made on the subject.

Extension of the Mall—Statue of King Charles I.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): To ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if the extension of the Mall into Whitehall will involve the removal of the equestrian statue of King Charles I.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The extension of the Mall into Whitehall will not necessarily involve the removal of the statue of Charles I.; but whether it will be desirable to shift its position depends upon the exact line on which the road will ultimately be formed.

Repayment to Donegal County Council of Interest on Buncrana and Carndonagh Railway Guaranteed Shares.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the interest paid by the Donegal

County Council upon the Buncrana and Carndonagh Railway guaranteed shares has as yet been repaid by the Lough Swilly Railway Company to the County Council as per the Treasury agreement which provides that after payment of working expenses the surplus shall go first to re-imburse the County Council any dividends paid in previous half-years; what, after payment of working expenses, has been the net surplus, and what has become of it.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) The payments made by the Donegal County Council under the guarantee in respect of the Carndonagh Railway have not been refunded by the Lough Swilly Company. The Board of Works are advised that the payments made by the County Council were merely voluntary payments, and that therefore the Treasury agreement and Section 5 of the Tramways Act of 1883 do not apply. The net surplus available since the opening of the line has not yet been applied, as the accounts are still open, pending the settlement of certain items in dispute between the Board of Works and the Lough Swilly Company.

Payment of Grant to Christ Church School, Blackpool.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he will explain why the Board has declined to pay until March, 1904, the grant earned by the Christ Church School, Blackpool, before 1st July, 1903, although it is customary to pay fee grants quarterly.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) I presume that the grant to which the hon. Member refers is the fee grant earned by the school before 1st July, 1903. Any instalment of fee grant due on or after the appointed day, as is the case here, is paid to the local authority. Any fee grant due to the managers for the period of the school year ending 30th June will be paid to them after the end of the school year, together with the balance of the annual grant. It cannot be paid earlier, as the complete Returns for the year must be received before the grant can be accurately calculated.

Insubordination on H.M.S. "Drake.

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state the number of men of H.M.S. "Drake" sentenced to imprisonment since 13th January, 1903, and the nature of their offences.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) Between the 13th January and the 31st March last, four men belonging to H.M.S. "Drake" were sentenced to terms of imprisonment for acts of insubordination, coupled in one case with neglect of duty. No later statistics are at present available owing to the absence of H.M.S. "Drake" at sea in connection with the manœuvres.

Increased Dining Accommodation in Devonport Dockyard.

MR. DUKE (Plymouth): To ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether the attention of the Lords of the Admiralty has been called to the need of increased accommodation at Devonport Dockyard for the men who have daily to take their dinners in the yard, and to the lack of means in the yard for drying the working clothes of men employed there in the open air; and, if so, whether any steps are to be taken to deal with these matters.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The attention of the Board has been called to the matters referred to in my hon. friend's Question, and a Report on the subject forwarded by the Admiral Superintendent of the Dockyard is now under consideration.

Qualified Nurses in Workhouse Infirmaries.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can give an assurance that no action will be taken with regard to the recognition of qualified nurses for workhouse infirmaries until full opportunity has been given for considering the objections taken to such appointments.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I can assure my right hon. friend that no action will be taken without due consideration of all representations made to me in connection with the Report of the Departmental Committee.

Payment of Rebate on Corn.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer when the rebate to corn merchants on stocks in hand at June, 1903, allowed by the Finance Act, will be paid.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The claims received are being examined as rapidly as possible, and over £40 000 has already been paid. The remaining claims are well in hand, and I hope that they will all be disposed of in the course of a few weeks.

Issue and Payment of Exchequer Bonds.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will explain how it is that in the Return of Public Income and Expenditure between 1st April and 8th August, 1903, the issue of Exchequer bonds appears as £7,000,000, and the amount paid off as £3,000,000, whereas in the prospectus issued on behalf of the Treasury on 24th July the total issue of Exchequer bonds is stated as £6,000,000.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The prospectus had reference only to the bonds issued to the public, which amounted to £6,000,000. Bonds of the former issue held by the National Debt Commissioners were renewed to the amount of £1,000,000 on the terms realised by the public tenders.

Income Tax — Addresses of People to whom Money has been Lent.

MR. GROVES (Salford, S.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state on what authority surveyors of taxes insist on traders giving the names and addresses of customers to whom they have advanced money, and make a separate assessment on interest received by such traders from borrowers upon which they have already allowed the tax.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) It does not appear to be at all usual for surveyors to insist upon traders giving the names and addresses of their customers to whom they have lent money; and certainly the surveyors have no power to make assessments, nor would they suggest to the District Commissioners to make separate assessments on interest received by traders from borrowers upon which tax had already been suffered by deduction. Cases, no doubt, may arise where a trader includes "interest" in his statement of profits, and claims a deduction from assessment to income tax in respect thereof as having already borne tax by deduction. In such a case it would be the surveyor's duty to require some verification of the statement that the interest had already borne tax. The names and addresses of the persons paying the interest might be necessary for this purpose. If the surveyor is refused this or any other material information, his only course is to leave the trader to appeal to the District Commissioners of Taxes for the allowance claimed. These Commissioners on appeal may at their discretion demand, under the provisions of Section 120 of the Income Tax Act, 1842, ' a complete schedule of all the particulars required by them." A surveyor has no power to make such an assessment as is described in the Question. The assessment is made by the District Commissioners, but it is often more convenient for all concerned that the information necessary for such assessment should be given to the surveyor in the first instance.

Alien Immigration Commission Report.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Alien Immigration; that, to avoid any rush of immigration prior to the legislation suggested, immediate executive action, so far as is possible, should be taken; and if he will undertake to give that view early consideration.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing the Report; and, in the meantime, I am unable to answer the Question.

India—Conversion of Property of Native States into Cash.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that it is the practice of political agents in temporary administrative charge of the States of chiefs in Central India to convert into cash such property as consists of jewelry, precious stones, ancient gold and silver coins, and other valuables belonging to such States; and, if so, will he give the date of any order authorising such action, and state under what authority political agents act in the manner indicated.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I am not aware of any such practice.

Suspension of the Ruling Chief of Panna.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Governor-General of India in Council obtained the concurrence of the Secretary of State before he assumed the administration of the principality of Panna, Central India, in September, 1891, and suspended the ruling chief of that State; and, if not, will he quote the date of the Report in which the Governor-General indicated to the Secretary of State the action he proposed to take.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) Orders were issued on the 1st September by the Government of India that, in view of the grave suspicions attaching to the Maharaja of Panna, he must be suspended from power, and that the political agent must temporarily assume the administration of the State pending the result of further inquiry. The Government of India reported the action they had taken on the 12th September. The Secretary of State saw no reason to interfere with the exercise of their discretion in the matter. The Secretary of State formally approved the action of the Government of India on the 13th November, on being informed of their proposal to constitute a Court to try the Maharaja on the charge of poisoning his uncle.

Revision of Irish National School Teachers' Pension Fund.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the result of the last revision of the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund has been furnished to the National Education Office, or to the representatives of the national school teachers; and when will the next revision take place.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The reply to the first inquiry is in the negative. The last quinquennial investigation into the fund was completed in 1901, and there will not be another until 1906.

Delay in Erection of Labourers' Cottages in the Strabane No 2 Rural District.

Mr. McFADDEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what is the cause of the delay on the part of the Local Government Board in sanctioning a loan for the erection of thirty-seven labourers' cottages in the Strabane No. 2 Rural District which was applied for some three years ago; and whether, seeing that the contract for the erection of these cottages has already been entered into, and in view of the want of proper housing accommodation for the labouring classes in the district, the Board will waive any informalities in the scheme or in the application for the loan.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Formal application for this loan was not received by the Local Government Board until the 11th of June last, and as the amount of the loan exceeded the published estimate by upwards of £27 per cottage, it was necessary that an advertisement should be inserted in the local papers setting forth particulars with regard to the proposed loan and the increase in the estimate. The Council was so informed on the 19th June, but up to the present the Board has not been furnished with copies of the newspapers containing the advertisement, although the Council has been asked for them.

Boyle Union Rate Collector.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, owing to the present system adopted by the Local Government Board, Rate Collector M'Dermott, of the Boyle Union, suffers an annual loss of £7 10s. for uncollected rates due by persons in receipt of outdoor relief, and that the Boyle Rural Council and the Roscommon County Council have both asked for the refund of this money to the rate collector; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of providing by legislation or otherwise a remedy by which the rate collector may recover money paid by him in cases where rates are irrecoverable owing to no default on his part.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Local Government Board has been called to the case of Mr. Michael M'Dermott, a poor rate collector in Boyle Union, who is obliged to suffer a loss of £7 10s. yearly in his income owing to being compelled by the new rules to lodge out of his own pocket rates which are uncollectable in the town of Boyle; and whether he can state what steps will be taken to have these sums refunded to this collector.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) It has been pointed out to the County Council by the Local Government Board that rates due by temporarily destitute or insolvent ratepayers are not legally irrecoverable, but that in view of the difficulty experienced by collectors in recovering items of this kind the Board is prepared to consider any well grounded application for permission to refund to collectors who have lodged the full amount of their warrants, rates which though legally recoverable are at the time uncollectable. This course sufficiently meets the necessities of the case and further legislation is not called for.

Attendances in Irish Schools.

MR. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how many schools in Ireland had, on 31st December, 1902, an average daily attendance of seventy or more than seventy pupils, and an average daily attendance of fifty but under seventy pupils respectively, and how many teachers were in the First Class and in the First Division of the First Class respectively according to the superseded rules of the Commissioners of National Education.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Of the national schools in operation on the 31st December, 1902 (excluding convent and monastery schools paid by capitation rates) there were 1,277 with an average attendance for the year 1902 of seventy pupils or more, and 1,659 with an average attendance for the same year of fifty pupils but under seventy. On the 31st December, 1902, there were in the service of the Commissioners 1,233 principal teachers classed Second Division of First Class according to the superseded rules, and 1,147 principal teachers classed in the First Division of First Class according to the same rules.

Irish National Education—Closing of Book Stores.

MR. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what amount was saved to the Treasury by the closing of the book stores of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland; and whether, seeing that in consequence of such closing the prices of books and requisites have been increased by upwards of 10 per cent., he will consider the advisability of using the saving for reducing the prices of books to the pupils, or giving free requisites to the very poor children.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The amount of the saving cannot be stated until the close of the current financial year. The suggestion at the end of the Question cannot be adopted.

Drainage of Black River, Mohill—Imposition of Special Rate.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of

Ireland whether he can state on what grounds a special rate of 9d. in the £ for the drainage of the Black River, near Mohill, has been imposed this year for the first time on farmers who purchased their holdings on the Crofton estate; and whether the Land Commission can explain why this charge was not redeemed by the landlord before the sale to the tenants was completed.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Upon the sale of the estate the capital charge for drainage works was redeemed in like manner as a superior interest out of the purchase money of the estate. The charges for maintenance rates remained outstanding, and were apportioned amongst the holdings of the purchasers. These rates are not redeemable.

Expenditure on Roads and New Works in Longford Rural District.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the yearly amount by which the limit of expenditure on roads and new works has been exceeded in the rural district of Longford for the last two years; what steps have been taken to check this expenditure; and whether a special inquiry will be held as to whether the new works were required in the public interest, or for the personal accommodation of certain district councillors who promoted them.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) An application has been made to the Local Government Board for authority to extend the limit of expenditure upon roads in the Longford rural district for the year ending 30th September, 1904, by the sum of £700. But no formal resolution of the County Council or Rural District Council to this effect has been received by the Board, and until this has been done it cannot consider the matter. Any excess of expenditure over the authorised limit in the past or current year will come before the auditor for review.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, by order dated 24th July 1903, the Local Government Board for Ireland have declined to increase the expenditure for roads in the union of Longford from £3,302 to £3,780, the amount in force down to the formation of Longford township into an urban council in 1900; that in consequence of this refusal contracts for the repairs of roads certified by the county surveyor which had been entered into by the Rural District Council of Longford have had to be cancelled, and that in consequence of the increase of prices many of these contracts had to be taken at higher prices than ten years ago; and whether, seeing that as material for roads is prepared in rural districts in Ireland during the summer, loss is now inflicted on the road contractors by cancellation of contracts, and as there are no main roads in County Longford the maintenance of all the mail car roads to the annual amount of £1,280 falls solely upon the rural district, he will direct the Local Government Board to increase the limit of expenditure from £3,302 to £3,780.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) No formal resolution of the County Council or Rural District Council applying for an extension of the limit of expenditure upon roads in the Longford rural district has been received by the Local Government Board. Until this has been done the Board cannot consider the matter.

Mare Shows in County Leitrim.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Department of Agriculture can explain why, under the operation of the rules for shows for mares in the County Leitrim, mares belonging to farmers in the Cloone Division, and other congested districts, were disqualified from entry for the last show of mares held under the rules of the Department of Agriculture in Mohill; and whether he can state what steps will be taken to prevent a similar disqualification operating against residents in the congested divisions in the County Leitrim in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Section 18 of The Agriculture and Technical

Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, precludes the Department from applying its funds in, or in relation to, a congested district. The operation of those schemes was therefore confined to the non-congested portions of the various counties. Accordingly, farmers resident in the congested districts of the County Leitrim were declared ineligible to receive nominations for their mares under the Department's Live Stock Schemes for 1903.

Borrowing Powers of Boyle Township.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what are the total borrowing powers of the township of Boyle; what is the total of the loans chargeable to that area; and what are the objections of the Local Government Board to sanctioning the issue of a further loan of £600 to enable houses to be provided, under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, in that township.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The borrowing powers amount to £7,921. Including a loan of £6,050 for waterworks, which has been sanctioned, the total liability of the town commissioners amounts to £7,777. The margin of borrowing power is not, therefore, sufficient to admit of a further loan of £600.

Buncrana Sewage Scheme.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, under the directions of the Local Government Board of Ireland, the Innishowen Rural District Council prepared plans for a scheme of sewerage for the town of Buncrana, within their district; that the plans thus prepared were approved of by the Local Government Board; that since then, as a result of an inquiry held by an inspector of the Local Government Board, the plans thus prepared have been rejected by that Board, and another different scheme recommended; and, if so, will the Local Government Board reimburse the district council for the money thus originally spent upon their advice and by their directions.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) An inquiry was held by an inspector of the Board into an application for a loan of £1,700 for a sewerage scheme at Buncrana. The necessity for a proper sewerage system was established, but as the Board was unable to approve of the council's scheme it declined to recommend the loan A fresh scheme having been adopted by the council, an application was made, in May last, for a loan of £3,000. A local inquiry was held in the following month, and as a result, the plans, etc., of the scheme were returned to the council for amendment in order to provide for filtration of the sewage before its discharge into the tide. The council has since referred the question to its engineer and to the Buncrana Public Health Committee.

Case of Poisoning in Maryborough Prison.

DR. MACDONNELL (Queen's County, Leix): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the case of poisoning in Maryborough prison, and to the fact that the medicines required for the use of the inmates are under the charge of, and dispensed by, a person without medical qualification; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of appointing a duly qualified pharmaceutical chemist to this prison.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The hon. Member doubtless refers to the occurrence of January last in Maryborough Prison. On that occasion a number of persons took ill from the effects of hellebore powder, inadvertently placed in their food. The powder, which is not a scheduled poison, was not kept in the prison as a medicine, but in the general stores as an insecticide for use on the prison farm. No permanently injurious results followed, and the use of the powder has since been discontinued. All medicines for the use of the inmates of the prison are under the charge of the medical officer who dispenses them. It is not considered necessary to give him the assistance of a pharmaceutical chemist.

Expenditure in Government Departments.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): To ask the First Lord of the

Treasury what was the total expenditure in each of the following Departments, viz., Board of Agriculture, Board of Education, Home Office, Local Government Board, and Board of Trade in the years 1870, 1880, 1890, and 1900; and what was the cost in the same years of each of the inspecting departments in the Home Office and in the Local Government Board.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) As the result of inquiries I have made, I find it will only be possible to give this information properly in the form of a Return.

Alien Immigration.

MR. FORDE RIDLEY (Bethnal Green, S.W.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will be prepared to introduce, early next session, legislation based upon the recommendations contained in the Report of the Royal Commission on Alien Immigration.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) Until the Government have had an opportunity of considering the Report, it is, I fear, impossible to make any promise as to legislation.

Fiscal Inquiry—Condition of Working Classes.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury will the inquiry now proceeding include an investigation into the conditions of the working classes in those countries which have adopted a protective or retaliatory tariff, and will it show in what manner the tariff has affected them.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) As I have already said, I think it will be better to await the publication of the Returns which are in course of preparation.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The Maintenance of Troops in South Africa.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, pending a decision of the Indian Government as to contribution towards the extra troops proposed to be maintained in South Africa for the use of India in case of emergency, permanent barrack accommodation will be erected for these troops in South Africa.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Correspondence is passing with the Indian Government on this matter. Pending the settlement of the question, it is proposed only to complete permanent barrack accommodation with accessories for the 15,000 men originally assigned as the force to be maintained in South Africa.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): Is it intended to ask India to contribute also towards the construction of barracks in South Africa?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir. It is not a question of India's contributing towards the construction of barracks. Obviously permanent accommodation for the troops would not be constructed unless the troops are intended to be maintained in South Africa.

MR. BUCHANAN: Will the maintenance of 25,000 men in South Africa depend on the consent of the Indian Government to contribute towards their cost?

MR. BRODRICK: When I said that 25,000 men would be permanently maintained in South Africa, I said at the same time that it was with a view to providing a certain force for India in an emergency, and that India had been invited to contribute.

MR. BUCHANAN: That is not my Question.

H.M.S. "Minerva's" Launch—Damage to Fishing Boat.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the steam launch of H.M.S. "Minerva," during the recent visit of the fleet to Bangor, collided with and damaged a fishing boat belonging to John Scott; and, if so, whether he will explain why, although this man at once went on board the "Minerva" to call attention to the damage done, he has not received any reply to his claim for compensation.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): No report of any such collision has reached the Admiralty, nor has any claim for compensation been received. Steps, however, will be taken to ascertain the circumstances in which the damage occurred. As the hon Member is probably aware, H.M.S. "Minerva" is one of the vessels taking part in tactical exercises off the coast of Portugal, and it has not been possible to obtain a report from her with regard to the incident.

Rosyth Naval Base.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether His Majesty's Government contemplate leasing or feuing any portion of the area purchased or to be acquired for the purposes of the Rosyth naval base, not required for Government purposes, with a view of providing accommodation for the people of the district; and whether His Majesty's Government will entrust the development of such lands to any responsible company willing to accept a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, and prepared to guarantee that any balance of profit after such payment should be applied for the benefit of the town to be created, so as to ensure that the town will be laid out on hygienic principles and with due regard to the amenities of the present and of future inhabitants.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Until the areas required for all prospective naval establishments at Rosyth have been allotted, it is not possible to say definitely whether any, and if so what, part of the property will be available for feuing purposes, or to determine how any building sites can best be dealt with. The suggestion made in the Question of my hon. friend is noted for future consideration.

Rainfall in India.

SIR MANCHERJEE-BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N. E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what is the most recent Report received regarding this year's rainfall up to date in India, and if it has been sufficient to permit of sowing operations in the principal agricultural districts; and whether he has any official Reports expressing apprehension regarding a failure of crops.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The latest information on the subject is given in the Viceroy's telegrams of 8th and 12th August, summarising the state of the monsoon and present agricultural prospects, which I have communicated to the newspapers. These Reports are satisfactory.

The Sugar Convention.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer a Question of which I have given private notice—namely, whether, with regard to the proclamation just issued, forbidding the importation of sugar from Russia, Denmark, and the Argentine Republic, it is the intention of the Government to issue such a proclamation when Parliament is not sitting, and if so, at what intervals; why Spain and Roumania, which are also condemned by the permanent Commission, are not included in the prohibition; what quantity of sugar was received through German ports from Russia last year, and directly from the Argentine Republic, and whether imports on the same scale have been going on this year up to the present; and whether any exemption from the effect of the proclamation will be permitted for existing contracts, in accordance with the precedents made in dealing with corn and coal.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): (1) Fresh proclamations will be issued when required, in accordance with the findings of the permanent Commission; (2) Spain and Roumania were not included, because their exports of sugar to this country are quite inconsiderable; (3) the Customs cannot give the figures of sugar received through German ports from Russia; (4) the amount of sugar received from the Argentine Republic in 1902 is given in the House of Commons Paper, Cd. 1632, as 809,000 cwts. During the seven months of this year the amount received was only 178,000 cwts.; (5) there is no analogy between the duties on corn and coal, which were imposed, without warning, in the Budget, and sugar, where there has been eighteen months' warning, the date of the Convention being 5th March, 1902.

MR. LOUGH: Is it the intention of the Government not to prohibit imports from countries which are condemned, and from which we have been receiving no sugar, but from which we may get sugar. Will it be legal to bring in sugar from Spain and Roumania?

*MR. ELLIOT: I will report that Question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Will the prohibition apply to sugars produced at refineries where Russian or Roumanian sugars are used?

*MR. ELLIOT: That Question, too, had better be addressed to my right hon. friend.

Church Schools—Provision of Prayer Books.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he will state how many local authorities have acted upon any circular or other communication of the Education Department that they are bound to find copies of the Book of Common Prayer for Church Schools; whether any local authorities have objected to the circular; and, if so, what course the Education Department propose to take upon the subject.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): No such circular has been issued, nor, so far as I am aware, has any question as to the supply of Prayer Books arisen except in regard to certain schools in Gloucestershire, and in these latter cases all that has happened is that the Gloucestershire Education Committee sent a circular to the voluntary schools on the subject, and the Board of Education, being appealed to by the Managers, communicated with the local authority as follows—

"I am to point out that Section 7 (1) of the Education Act, 1902, provides that the Local Education Authority shall maintain and keep efficient all public elementary schools within their area which are necessary. It appears to the Board of Education that where religious instruction is part of the curriculum of a school, whether such school be a Council school or a voluntary school, the obligation imposed on the local education authority to keep the school efficient extends to the religious instruction, and that it will therefore be the duty of the authority to provide such books, etc., as may be necessary to enable the religious instruction to be properly given in accordance with the terms of Section 7 (6) of the Act. The use of these books at any time outside the ordinary school hours will be a matter for agreement between the local education authority and the managers, who may possibly, for Sunday-school purposes, prefer that the books should be their own property."

I have no other information on this matter.

Appointments Under the Irish Land Bill.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if there will be any tests of efficiency in the case of appointments consequent on the passage of the Land Bill; and, if so, in what manner and by whom such tests will be applied.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): It is not at present practicable to estimate the extent of the new Department. But the selection of persons to fill appointments in it will be made on the principle of choosing the men best qualified by knowledge and experience. All nominations and appointments will be made by the Lord-Lieutenant.

Upper Masserene Drainage Tax.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the amount of the drainage tax paid in that portion of Upper Massereene lying between Lough Portmore and Tunney and the extreme portion of County Antrim, including Aughagallon, Aghalee, and Ballinderry; whether he can state the amount of the outlay on the drainage works in that area, and how it was expended.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Commissioners of Public Works cannot state the actual expenditure on works executed within the limited area mentioned. A loan of £100,000 was issued for works in the entire drainage district; the loan has long since been repaid; the proportion of this advance, including interest, charged to the lands specified in the Question, was £24,840. The outlay was on the improvement of the channel of the Bann and its tributaries, the erection of bridges and other works required in the drainage district.

Aghalee Labourers' Cottages.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the amount expended on the site, the laying out of grounds, and the buildings in connection with the erection of labourers' cottages in the Aghalee rural district; how much of the amount has the District Council received, and what is the cause of the delay in paying the unexpended balance; and whether, seeing that a number of fresh applications have been recently made for labourers' cottages in this district, he can state whether the applicants have complied with all the requirements, and what efforts have been made to procure sites so that the work may be proceeded with.

MR. WYNDHAM: A loan of £1,500 was sanctioned. It included £280 for the acquisition of land, £1,180 for building ten cottages, and £40 for miscellaneous expenses. The sum of £1,300 has been advanced. The balance (£200) will be paid when some defects in the cottages have been remedied. The further applications referred to in the second part of the Question have not yet been brought before the Local Government Board.

Gun Licences in County Galway.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a rifle licence was refused to H. J. Bailey, of Galway, by J. C. Gardiner, R.M., notwithstanding the recommendation signed in his favour by a number of magistrates, and that a gun licence was refused by the same magistrate to Frank Bailey, of Galway: and, if so, whether he can state the grounds upon which such licences were refused.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question of the issue of licences to keep firearms is one for the consideration of the resident magistrate. The applications to which the hon. Member refers have been referred to Mr. Gardiner for further consideration. The provision in the Peace Preservation Act of 1881, compelling a resident magistrate to grant a licence on the production of a certificate signed by justices of the peace, was repealed in 1886 by the Government of that day.

Irish Telephone Service.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been directed to the lack of trunk telephonic service in Ireland; and, if so, whether he will endeavour to place the telephone service in Ireland on a level with that of Great Britain.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I have recently received a copy of a Resolution on the subject of the telephone trunk service in Ireland from the Cork Industrial Development Association, and I shall be glad to consider any requests for extensions in Ireland on the same conditions as are applicable in other parts of the United Kingdom.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork Co., N.E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been called to the advisability of extending the trunk telephonic system to important towns in the South of Ireland in the interest of the development of Irish trade; will he state whether an application has been made to the Great Southern and Western Railway Company for accommodation at Limerick Junction suitable to admit of the working of a trunk switch there; and if so, what is the result of the negotiations.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have recently received a copy of a Resolution passed by the Cork Industrial Development Association calling attention to the importance of trunk telephonic communication in the South of Ireland, and I shall be glad to consider any applications for extensions of the trunk system on the same conditions as are applicable to such extensions in other parts of the United Kingdom. Application has been made to the Great Southern and Western Railway Company for increased accommodation at Limerick Junction with a view to arrangements for the connection of Tipperary and Mallow with the trunk system. The railway company are unable to provide additional space, and I have asked for a further report as to the possibility of using the existing telegraph office, but I fear that this will be a matter of much difficulty.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: Then, are the mercantile community in Ireland to understand that if the railway company refuse to grant these facilities at Limerick Junction they will be deprived of these advantages?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: They say they are unable to provide any further space, but I am trying if some other arrangement cannot be come to.

Fiscal Inquiry.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he has now received information as to the representative character of the joint meeting of cotton employers and workers held in Manchester on 21st July, which almost unanimously condemned the proposed fiscal changes.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have received a great many communications on this subject since I gave my answer in the House,† and the hon. Gentleman will not be surprised, perhaps, to hear that the communications were of a very varied character, some supporting the view I expressed, some contravening it. My general impression, for what it is worth, is that my original statement was not substantially incorrect.

MR. HARWOOD: The right hon. Gentleman is aware that all the organised bodies of workers and employers were represented at the meeting.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand the question is whether this committee was authorised to come to the decision to which it apparently came, and it is upon that point that I gave my answer to the House. I have heard very different opinions expressed in regard to it.

Alien Immigration.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government propose forthwith to adopt measures, not requiring recourse to Parliament, to prevent the immediate increase in the immigration of undesirable aliens contemplated by the Royal Commission on Alien Immigration as a result of the publication of their Report.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Report has no doubt just been issued, but as far as I am aware it is not yet in the hands of any members of the Government, and it is therefore clearly impossible for me to give any statement at this stage as to the course that ought to be adopted in consequence of the Report.

SHEEP SCAB BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxvi, 1451.

MARINE STORE DEALERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to Revenue Bill, without Amendment.

Amendments made by this House to the Amendments and the Consequential Amendments to Irish Land Bill, without Amendment, and do not insist on their Amendments to which this House has disagreed.

That they have agreed to: Consequential Amendment to Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, without Amendment.

That they have agreed to: Public Buildings Expenses Bill, Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2) Bill, Patent Office Extension Bill, without Amendment.

Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill, with Amendments.

Amendment to Amendments to: County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill, without Amendment.

Light Load Line: That they communicate Copy of Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships in the present session of Parliament, together with the Minutes of Evidence, Proceedings of the Committee, etc.

KITCHEN AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS (HOUSE OF COMMONS).

First Report brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 355.]

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

Order for Committee read.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord George HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The limited audience to whom the Secretary of State has annually to expound the Indian Budget in this House makes the absence of any past well-known and regular attendant a noticeable incident. Since the last discussion of Indian finance there has passed away from amongst us one who took deep interest in all questions relating to India. The death of Mr. Caine has deprived this Assembly of a notable personality, of one in whom sincerity of purpose and geniality of manner were combined to a remarkable degree, and who, as a critic and opponent of the Indian Government and its policy, contrived to perform what he considered to be his duty without exciting either dislike or anger amongst those whom he criticised. Though to me he was a constant opponent, I deeply regret his loss, both on personal and political grounds. He was one with whom I was ever ready to co-operate, and his devotion to India and the task which he had imposed upon himself were as sincere as they were successful.

The three financial years with which I have to deal run from 1st April, 1901, to April, 1904; and the general tenor of the financial results of those years is very satisfactory. In reviewing them, I will abstain, as far as practicable, from recourse to a multiplicity of figures, using only such as are necessary to indicate the general tendency and trend of the revenue and expenditure with which I have to deal. We budgeted in the financial year ended April, 1902, for a surplus of £690,000. That surplus steadily grew, until it attained the dimensions of £4,950,000, or an increase of £4,260,000 over the original estimate. This satisfactory result was due to a considerable increase in income and a very large reduction of expenditure. The two causes which mainly contributed to the reduction of expenditure were the large contributions from the Imperial Exchequer for the use of troops in South Africa and China and the very satisfactory returns from the railways, which gave a net result of £1,000,000 in excess of the original forecast. For the year ended April, 1903, we estimated a surplus of £936,000. The revised Budget three months back showed a surplus of £2,740,000; and the closed accounts now put it at £3,190,000. Therefore it is satisfactory to note that in each of these two years there has been a steady and continuous improvement in the realisation of surpluses. For the first time this year the revenue and expenditure of the districts known as the Berars are included in the accounts of the Indian Government, and I shall subsequently give an explanation for the inclusion of figures connected with those territories. There was also a payment of £480,000 from Imperial funds for military purposes connected with China. On the other hand, this Budget made a special provision of £1,400,000 to the provincial Governments in reduction of land revenue and in increasing grants for the maintenance and enlargement of provincial establishments.

The most satisfactory feature, both in this, as well as in the finance of the preceding year, is the steady growth of every branch of revenue—Customs, Excise, assessed taxes, and salt—which is connected with the consuming capacity of the people. The growth is small if the vast population affected is taken into account, but it has been continuous, showing that, though the movement may be slight, it is an advance both in material prosperity and spending power. In considering the Estimates for the next year, we had behind us large realised surpluses for three years in succession, and with such an experience we felt justified in taking a somewhat more sanguine estimate of our revenue for the forthcoming year. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in India is not in as happy circumstances as his financial brother in this country. It would puzzle the ingenuity, I think, of any financier to devise any fresh taxes which would bring in any very considerable increase of revenue. Although the taxation is very light per head if you take the enormous population of India, still the existing system practically includes all sources of revenue. The remission, still more the abolition, of taxation, however small in amount, becomes, therefore, to the Indian Finance Minister a question of immeasurably graver import than it is to the more happily circumstanced Chancellor of the Exchequer in this country. If a mistake or miscalculation is made it cannot easily be remedied, and there is, in addition, always the danger hanging over India of a shortage of rain, which, if it occurs over any considerable area of that continent, not only curtails the revenue, but at once imposes heavy charges for the establishment and maintenance of a provisional system of poor relief, the cost of which is defrayed, not as here out of local rates, but out of Treasury funds.

Lord George Hamilton.

Notwithstanding these unquestionable drawbacks to the reduction of taxation, we considered it necessary to give to the taxpayers considerable remission this year. Assuming that the sources of revenue remained unchanged, we found that we might safely forecast a surplus of £2,250,000 after balancing that income against all sanctioned expenditure. It did not seem to us to be fair to the taxpayers in India that we should budget for such a sum, and if any reduction of taxation was contemplated it was clear that the first tax to be reduced was the salt tax. We propose to reduce the salt tax by 20 per cent. Though there is little direct taxation in India, such as does exist comes down very low into the scale of material comfort and the means of subsistence. In this country all incomes below £160 a year are fully exempt from the income tax; in India all incomes above Rs.500, or £33 a year, are subject to its operation. We determined, therefore, to raise this exemption to Rs.1,000, or £66 per annum. The result of these two remissions was to reduce our surplus by £1,320,000. Deducting this from the surplus we could otherwise count upon, we were left with an estimated surplus for the year of £948,000. I am glad to say that later Returns which have reached me, show that we may anticipate a considerable addition to this sum, because the reports of the fall of rain are satisfactory. Therefore I think we can dismiss from our minds any idea of there being any scarcity of food or deficiency in the harvest in India this year.

In accordance with practice we spend a large sum this year upon remunerative public works, and we propose to devote to that purpose £8,834,000. Of this sum only £4,686,000 will be raised by loan or through the railway companies, the remainder being found from revenue and cash balances. The practice which for many years past has prevailed of devoting, either out of surpluses or from expenditure charged to revenue, large sums annually to the prosecution of remunerative works is now bearing good fruit. The unproductive debt under this process is steadily diminishing, and the returns of railway and irrigation works with equal certainty are becoming a larger and larger source of revenue.

A two-fold sinking fund is thus established, which enables the Indian Government to meet various calls upon them for the promotion of the efficiency of both civil and military establishments, to a considerable extent, without imposing additional taxation.

That part of India known as the Berars is now included in the Imperial accounts, and I will give the reasons for this incorporation. Every student of Indian history is aware that during the latter days of Lord Dalhousie's administration he was compelled to resort to summary action in order to make the Nizam of Haidarabad comply with his financial and military obligations towards the supreme Government. Into the merits of that protracted controversy I do not now propose to go; but the financial arrangement agreed upon by treaty, was one under which the Nizam transferred to the British Government, as security for the fulfilment of his military obligations and for the support of the Haidarabad Contingent, that fertile piece of territory known as the Berars, the Indian Government undertaking, after paying off the cost of administration, to defray the expenditure of the contingent and then to hand over any surplus that might accrue to the Nizam. This arrangement has not worked altogether satisfactorily. The Nizam and his Government complained that the administration was unnecessarily expensive, and that they did not get the surplus they ought to have. Those in authority in Berar contended that the anomalous and uncertain conditions surrounding their administration prevented the establishment of that confidence and continuity in changes and reforms which is undoubtedly associated with the administration of other territory which is permanently under British rule. This transfer of administration took place some fifty years ago, and from that time to now the inhabitants have had the advantage of a system of land revenue, of Law Courts and education, and of public works, far superior to that prevailing in the contiguous territories of Haidarabad. It would have been impossible, in the interests of those who for two generations had become habituated to such methods of administration, to transfer them back to a lower and inferior form of government. Successive Viceroys had endeavoured to solve this controversy; but the inherent difficulties of coming to an arrangement fair alike to the Nizam, the British Government, and the inhabitants of the Berars were such that none of them had been able to suggest a plan preferable to that devised by Lord Dalhousie. The subject was recently broached to the Nizam, and Lord Curzon took the opportunity of a visit to him during last autumn to propose fresh arrangements. The Nizam responded with such promptitude and evenmindedness that, in the course of a few interviews, they came to a new agreement in every sense more satisfactory. This arrangement reaffirms the Nizam's sovereignty over the assigned districts, and he gives a perpetual lease of the administration to the British Government. The Nizam receives, instead of a fluctuating revenue, an annual fixed rent of 25 lakhs, and in addition he has received an immediate credit of 41 lakhs in respect of the amount held by the Administration of the Berars as a working cash balance. This arrangement enables us to combine the civil administration of Berar with that of the Central Provinces, and to promote economy and efficiency in administration. As regards [the military charges, we have already been able to effect certain improvements and economies. The Haidarabad Contingent is incorporated in the Indian Army, and it has been at once possible to reduce the actual number of regiments without any sacrifice of military strength. The whole negotiation was conducted by the Viceroy with characteristic energy and skill, and its confirmation has, I am glad to say, been eminently satisfactory to the Nizam, who, as the first of the great Indian princes, headed the deputation of that body at the Delhi Durbar to render homage to the King-Emperor of India.

Turning to the finances, this is the first time that any great reduction of taxation has been made in India for twenty years. That period has, to the Indian Government, been one of anxiety and suspense. They have had to deal with cycles of bad harvests and unprecedented droughts, with currency perplexities, with military reforms and administrative advancement entailing increased and progressing expenditure;

and yet at the end of this period Indian finance emerges stronger in its credit, its stability, and its recuperative power than it was at the commencement of that period. My critics, both in this House and outside, have found fault with my Estimates on previous occasions on the ground that they have been too sanguine; but when each successive year has shown that, if I erred at all as regards the figures I used, it was in under-estimating my revenue, another form of criticism has been devised; and it was insinuated that, even if my figures were correct, they were paper figures and incapable of realisation, and that only when a large remission of taxation had been made could they believe in the substance and reality of my surpluses. Now that this year I have been able to make these large reductions I hope that my critics will discuss Indian finance from a rational point of view, and will not dispute that which is absolutely undeniable, but will impartially examine what are the strong and the weak points in the system and structure of Indian taxation and expenditure. The surpluses of the last three years have amounted to £1,670,000, £4,950,000, and £3,050,000, and the first of these years was one of exceptional drought, and consequently of very large famine expenditure. Indian revenue, therefore, has shown, both in good years and bad years, a remarkable stability. At first sight it may seem curious that in a country which derives its revenue almost entirely from agriculture the income should show so well. India, as we all know, is subject to an insufficient or very fluctuating rainfall. But the fact is that the climate of India compensates one part for the drought of another. India is so vast, and its climate so variable, that there has never been known a year, not even of the most exceptional drought, when its food supply was insufficient for the support of its whole population. If one large portion of the country suffers from lack of food, others benefit by the high prices thus promoted, and the law of compensation has so distributed over this vast country loss and gain that even in the blackest of famines in the West large profits are made by the agriculturists in the East.

Those who are conversant with Indian finance talk a good deal of the external trade of India and of the development of certain great industries. The external trade of India is good. The manufactures of cotton and jute and the mining of gold and of coal have developed considerably during the past few years. But it is not until we take the numbers of those engaged in these industries, and compare them numerically with those engaged in agriculture, that we realise how puny is the aggregate employment given by all non-agricultural industries contrasted with the enormous agricultural population. Cotton employs and maintains 430,000, jute 144,000, coal 100,000, other mines 60,000. But the agricultural population in British India alone numbers 192,000,000; and although subsidiary industrial employments will be the valves and conduits by which we can diminish the pressure of this gigantic population on the soil, the prosperity of India almost entirely depends upon the condition of agriculture and those engaged in it. The agricultural methods of India are in many parts deplorably backward, and have remained unchanged and unimproved for centuries. This has engaged the attention of the Government. Active steps are being taken by the Government of India for its improvement, and under the superintendence of an inspector-general and his staff, substantial progress has been made in the development of agricultural inquiries and experiments. A body of experts and chemists have been associated with the various agricultural departments. A wealthy American, Mr. Phipps, gave a magnificent donation to the Viceroy of £20,000, to be devoted to what Indian purpose he chose; and Lord Curzon has decided to devote it to an agricultural research laboratory. It is further proposed by the Government to establish in connection with the laboratory an agricultural college and a large experimental farm, so that the theory and science and practice of agriculture can be progressively taught. If this scheme succeeds it will be easy to multiply such institutions in other parts of India, and not only do much towards improving the condition of agriculture, but to offer a field of employment to a section of the community of higher intelligence and ability than are ordinarily associated with agricultural pursuits.

There is another experiment which we made some time back in connection with the agricultural classes which is very interesting in its results. As the House is aware, one of the great evils of the agricultural population of India is its indebtedness to the moneyed classes. The founders and promoters of the various systems of land settlement now in operation throughout India were desirous to so limit the demands of the Government upon the cultivator or owner, as to leave him a considerable annual margin of profit, which might form security for advances should he be desirous of borrowing for the improvement of his holding. A low land assessment, full proprietary rights, were the security and inducement for capital to be lent, whilst the Civil Courts gave to the money-lender exceptional facilities for recovery. Capital and land improvement were thus harnessed together for the reciprocal benefit of each interest. These ideas, though in strict accordance with the accepted economic theories of Western Europe, have worked disastrously in India, and the indebtedness of the cultivator to the moneyed classes, and the steady alienation of land from the agricultural to the non-agricultural classes, have over large portions of India become a social and political danger. In the Punjab the evil assumed such dimensions that there arose a strong request for legislative remedies. But no remedy could be effected which did not curtail existing proprietary rights by prohibiting alienation, and if this was done the selling value of land would diminish, the security for loans would be lessened, and the rate of interest increased. The question then arose, Would these drastic measures, if adopted, give offence to the owners of the land and the cultivators of the soil? A Bill was prepared and brought into the Legislative Council of the Governor-General to be applied to the Punjab. A series of lively and interesting debates took place; there was a marked difference of opinion on the subject, and the opponents and supporters of the Bill were composed indiscriminately both of Europeans and natives. The Government decided that it was necessary to interfere. The Bill was sent home for the sanction of the Secretary of State, who has unrivalled expert advisers on these questions, and they unanimously came to the conclusion that the Bill should become law. A full report of its working during the first year of its operation in the Punjab has been received. It has justified the predictions of both its friends and supporters. It has stopped alienation, succeeded in checking and diminishing sales of land, and its restraining influence on mortgaging and other forms of indebtedness has been marked. On the other hand, the selling value of land has fallen, the rate of interest has risen, and the credit of landholders has been curtailed. I am glad to say that so far from the Act becoming unpopular in consequence, the Financial Commissioner of the Punjab reports—

> "There is no doubt that one effect of the Act has been to contract the credit of zemindars, but as far as can be gathered from the district reports, this contraction of credit is viewed by the generality of the zemindars themselves as a relief. It has led to a sensible reduction in the expenses connected with social and family ceremonies, which have hitherto been regarded as necessary evils."

Referring to its effect on the money lenders, he says

> "In several districts it is mentioned that money-lenders are devoting their capital to a more healthy and legitimate class of business in the direction of dealing wholesale and retail in foodstuffs and other common commodities."

He concludes by saying—

> "On the whole the Financial Commissioner is able to say that the Act is working even better than he hoped it would. Last year he thought the great experiment promised well, and this year he is fully confirmed in that opinion."

Therefore, if the Act continues to work well, its principle can without difficulty be applied with modifications to other parts of India, and thus we shall have a general and effective remedy against the most serious mistakes our well-intentioned legislation has inflicted upon India.

In a densely-populated and long settled agricultural country like India no rapid growth of public revenue is to be expected, and if I claim stability as one characteristic of Indian income, I must admit that it is neither elastic nor expansive. Its annual growth is estimated at about 2½ per cent., and from the experience of the last fourteen years I do not think that it can be safely put higher. When we turn to the expenditure side, its most satisfactory feature is the small amount of the dead weight charges in connection with the debt. There is no great Government whose unremunerative expenditure is, in proportion to income, so small as that of India. But, small as it is, I am glad to say it is yearly decreasing. This is due to the practice of devoting every year not only surpluses of revenue over expenditure, but even portions of the annual current expenditure itself to the construction of such reproductive works as railways and canals. In the railway account there are charged against railway revenue the terminable annuities, by which in fifty years the Indian Government obtains possession of a magnificent property in the guaranteed railways. Sir Edward Law made an interesting calculation on a commercial basis of the assets and liabilities of India, and the result is very satisfactory. The public debt and liabilities of India in April last were £224,000,000. This included temporary and unfunded debt, liabilities for Post Office Savings Banks, and provident funds. The capitalised amount of liabilities on account of railways was £94,800,000, and there were various minor obligations of £5,500,000, making a total commercial indebtedness of £322,800,000. Against this has to be put the commercial value of railways and canals created and in working order. Sir Edward Law took the net annual income of the last three years of these enterprises, and capitalised it at twenty-five years' purchase. This gave a sum of £264,000,000 sterling, and, adding to this the cash balances and reserves, loans and advances to Native States and corporations, which amount to £37,000,000, we have total assets of £301,000,000. Deducting this from the total liabilities, we get a net result of liabilities over assets of £21,000,000. Small as this amount is now it will steadily decrease, and I am confident there is no Government in the world which can show so satisfactory a balance-sheet of its assets and liabilities.

Now let me say a word in connection with currency. The finance of no Government can be satisfactory if it is associated with a discredited and depreciated currency. I claim for the Indian Government that the success of the currency policy recently adopted has enormously increased their whole financial system. Let me shortly recapitulate what it has done. The foundation of the change was the attempt to give to the rupee an external exchange value in gold of 1s. 4d. That scheme has now been four years in full operation. Taking the annual average external value of the rupee for purposes of exchange for the last four years, it only shows a variation of ½ per cent., while the exchange during the past year —that is, the year 1902–03—varied only 1·4 per cent. During the same period the fluctuation in the price of silver—which had previously governed the price of the rupee—was 14·7 per cent. The benefit thus conferred upon Indian merchants, exporters from and importers into India, is incalculable. It has given, in place of the slippery shifting value of the old silver rupee, the stable foundation of a gold standard upon which to frame their enterprises and calculations. Whilst the exchange value externally of the rupee has risen, and without difficulty been maintained practically at the rate of 1s. 4d., internally prices have not been adversely affected. In fact, the prices of commodities of general consumption have risen rather than fallen. By reducing the number of rupees to be remitted to this country to meet gold obligations, surplus after surplus has been secured during the past four years, and the present remission of taxation is mainly due to the success of our currency policy. Neither has any difficulty occurred of obtaining and retaining in our treasuries the gold necessary for exchange of notes or rupees coined in silver. Sir Edward Law reports that gold coins, though demanded by bankers chiefly for remittance purposes, are little used in local circulation. We have in the currency reserve about £9,000,000, and in the gold reserve in this country about £4,000,000 invested in gold securities. I saw that in the debate in the Legislative Council of the Viceroy it was said by some native gentleman that the rise in the external value of the rupee had increased taxation internally by the amount of the difference between the external value of the rupee when the Mints were closed and its present quotation. I think only a moment's consideration is necessary to upset that contention. If a rise in the exchange value of the rupee means an increase in internal taxation, then a fall in that exchange value would mean a lightening of internal taxation. The exchange value of the rupee during the last twenty-five years has steadily fallen from twenty-four pence to twelve pence. Was taxation during that time diminished 50 per cent.? Taxation was not so affected, and, if a fall does not diminish taxation, then a rise in the exchange value does not raise it.

Now let me pass on and examine what is undoubtedly the weak part of our financial system. It has no practical taxable reserves; and I cannot better illustrate this weakness than by examining the two taxes, portions of which we remitted this year. The income tax in this country is a vast financial reserve. It can be raised and lowered without commercial or financial inconvenience, and its yield per penny in the pound is steadily increasing. The income tax in India differs in one material sense from the similar impost in England, inasmuch as agricultural incomes are exempt from its operation; and as agriculture is the main source of wealth in India, the income tax there only falls upon official and industrial incomes and those derived from investments other than land. In England all incomes below £160 are exempted from this impost; in India all incomes above £33 were till this year subject to it. A sixpenny Indian income tax upon its present assessment brings in about £1,290,000; in England a penny income tax gives £2,475,000, or almost exactly double the full yield of a sixpenny income tax in India—that is to say, a halfpenny income tax here brings in the equivalent of a sixpenny income tax in India. An extra 1d. or even 2d. in the pound has not been an infrequent method by which Chancellors of the Exchequer balance their revenue against a sudden rise of expenditure; but to bring in an amount equal to 1d. in the pound here an Indian Finance Minister would have to impose an extra shilling in the pound income tax. This will give some idea of the scanty resources behind the Indian Treasury, so far as direct taxation is concerned, compared with those available here. Estate and succession duties here are another great source of annual taxation, but the laws of inheritance in India preclude the possibility of applying this method of increasing public revenues so as to bring in any large amount.

The other tax we have reduced is the salt tax; but this, again, illustrates the tenuity of our indirect taxation. This is the most prolific of our indirect taxes, but it is very high upon the *ad valorem* value of the commodity itself. Salt in India is supplied from three sources—partly from salt mines and lakes in the North, partly from manufacture by evaporation in the South, and partly by imports from Europe; but it is all subject to a uniform tax. The tax was Rs.2½ per 82lb. This represents a 1,000 per cent. tax upon the salt from the mines and lakes, and 214 per cent. upon the retail price of imported salt. I have always been in favour of a large reduction of this tax. We have reduced the tax 20 per cent., and I am watching with great interest the result. Unless all my experience and knowledge of taxation is at fault, I believe the consumption will so increase in the course of a few years—already in the three months of this year there is a very considerable increase—as to make good the whole of the present remission. And if my forecast be correct, in this way we may create a financial reserve by encouraging the consumption of a necessity of life liable to taxation, and in an emergency realising upon the improved consumption we have thus created a higher revenue than on the rate remitted. But this is the only reliable financial reserve that can at present be named, and this reserve is not yet in existence.

On the other hand, expenditure is increasing, and under pressure of influences which no Government can permanently resist; for we have established a system of administration which has for its ideal and aim a standard not of Asiatic conventionality, but of European conception. The Viceroy, with indomitable energy, has reviewed, inspected, and inquired into the various branches of administration with a view to raising their efficiency. (Hear, hear.) Education, police, land revenue, railways, irrigation, famine administration—each has in its turn been overhauled, and in each case recommendations have been made resulting in a larger outlay. And though there is reason to believe that this increased expenditure will be a good reproductive investment, still at the outset of each reform, or step in advance, it entails unavoidable expenditure. Sanitary improvement, supplies of pure water, increased facilities of communication and progressive municipal life are each in their turn making increased demands upon local resources. The local cesses which defray all these demands are undistinguishable in their incidence from the land revenue, and in consequence an addition to it. I fear that, quite independent of any other call upon the revenues of India, the objects which I have enumerated, praiseworthy and necessary of attainment though they may be, will in the course of the next few years absorb the greater part of the present surplus and the annual increment of increased yield from existing taxes. Therefore it behoves us, flourishing though our finance may apparently be, to carefully scrutinise and overhaul all demands for increased expenditure.

That naturally brings me to those disbursements which are heaviest, and at the same time most necessary of all the expenditure incurred by the Indian Government—namely, the military establishments of India. I am old-fashioned and economical; and during the eight years that I have been Secretary of State I have endeavoured, and not without success, to fight against that expansion of military establishments which has characterised the policy of all the great Governments of the world. The white army in India, when I came into office, was 74,000 men; it is now 75,300. The native army was 145,000; it is now 148,000. When we take into consideration the number of the population amongst whom this army is stationed, the size of the country in which order has to be maintained, and the extent of the frontier to be defended, the number of officers and men upon the Indian establishment is surprisingly small. It cannot with safety be reduced; and, in the opinion of many competent authorities, it ought to be increased. But though the numbers give little signs of expansion, the expenditure during this eight years has risen from £15,200,000 to £17,700,000; and this increase is mainly due to the necessity of re-armament, so that the equipment of the whole of the establishments, both European and native, should be brought up to the latest standard of military efficiency.

Lord George Hamilton.

The position of the Indian Government in the control of the military expenditure is somewhat anomalous. Over the native army it has full and complete control, but over the European army that control is much more limited. After the Mutiny, the white army of the old East India Company was abolished and incorporated in the Imperial British Army, and from that time till now the War Office stands to India in the position of a contractor who has a monopoly of the article required. I believe the arrangement to be, from an Indian point of view, the cheapest that can be devised. But it is open at times to self-evident drawbacks. The foundation of the arrangements then made, and still in force, is that while the War Office will give India, within limits, the white soldiers she wants, the Indian Government are under an obligation to give to all transferred to the Indian establishment, a daily rate of pay not less than that which is received in other parts of the Empire. This rate of pay is governed by the condition of the labour market where the men are recruited, and that happens to be within the richest country in Europe and the highest rate of wages. The wages fluctuate according to the prospects of the community within which they circulate. If higher pay is given here to the soldier, it is associated with a rise of wealth in the community to whom the Government offer the higher rate of pay. But India has no corresponding advantage; she has to pay, not according to the standard of her wealth or her labour market, but according to the standard of wealth here, and she has no option if the soldiers she wants cannot be otherwise obtained. The correspondence which was recently published relating to the increase of pay sanctioned to the British soldier in India illustrates this anomaly. But to anybody who is not conversant with Cabinet practice and procedure, a perusal of these Papers may lead to a misunderstanding, as the impression might be created on those who read them that the War Office, suddenly and without any consultation, informed the India Office of its determination, and that in consequence the Indian objections to this increase of pay were not in the purview of the Cabinet when they decided upon this rise. It may, therefore, be as well to state somewhat more fully what was the origin of the increase of pay. Towards the close of the preparation of the Army Estimates for the year 1902–3 the Secretary of State for War informed the Government that, in the unanimous opinion of his military advisers, they could not undertake to maintain the establishments at the necessary strength during the ensuing year unless there was a considerable rise in the inducement to join the Army. It must be recollected that at that time we were engaged in a serious war. A Cabinet Committee was at once appointed, of which I was a member; and it very carefully investigated the matter, as it was clear that any rise in the pay here would have to be given to the British soldiers who were quartered in India. The Government subsequently considered the question, and every objection taken in the correspondence, urged either by the India Office or the Government of India, was present to the mind of the Cabinet when they arrived at their decision.

I was not able to adopt the ordinary and recognised procedure of officially consulting the Government of India on the matter. If it had become known that the Government had under contemplation the idea of largely increasing the pay of the British soldier, all recruiting for the time being would have been stopped; and it therefore became necessary to adopt measures of extreme precaution to ensure secrecy in this matter. The Government of India is double-headed, and consists of two considerable Councils, and it would have been almost impossible to have followed the procedure laid down by Act of Parliament, and have addressed them officially on the matter, without a risk of the proposition becoming known. I therefore adopted the course of placing myself in semi-official communication both with the Viceroy and my military advisers; and there is no objection contained in these Papers which the Government of India subsequently urged against the proposal that was not known both to the Committee of the Cabinet and the Cabinet itself when they decided upon the increase. There was no difference of opinion between the Council of the Secretary of State and the Council of the Viceroy as regards this increase of pay. We agreed to pay the extra 2d.; we objected to paying the whole 6d. I did not adopt the suggested argument of the Viceroy of India, because it was one which, if recourse was had to arbitration, would not have stood the test of argument. But I stated with absolute accuracy in my correspondence with the War Office what the position of the Indian Government was, and the only ground upon which they could claim exemption from the full burden of the charge then imposed upon them. I may as well read these two paragraphs, written on 22nd April—

> "4. So long as the British soldiers stationed in India, and forming part of the Indian establishment, are recruited for, and form part of, an Imperial force serving in all parts of the Empire, it is not possible for the Indian Government to refuse to them the pay and emoluments to which they are entitled elsewhere.
>
> "5. It is, therefore, from this standpoint—that of a sharer in the financial consequences of a military change which he must necessarily accept—that the Secretary of State in Council wishes to address the Secretary of State for War. If the scheme now under discussion must be generally accepted by the Indian Government, it ought nevertheless to be examined from an Indian point of view, with the object of ascertaining how far special arrangements are needed to prevent the additional charge upon India from being greater than would correspond to the additional benefit that she receives."

I was unable to induce the War Office to accede to my request, and I therefore obtained the sanction of my colleagues to refer the matter to arbitration. Some high authorities contend that a question of public policy, such as the rate of pay necessary to secure recruits, is not a question that should have been referred to arbitration; but so anxious were the Cabinet in this matter to give India every opportunity of stating her case that these objections were waived, and the Lord Chief Justice was requested to decide upon the dispute between the two Departments. He has given his decision, and the whole charge will in consequence have to be borne by Indian revenues. I regret the imposition of this charge—it has added largely to our military expenditure; but as it cannot be reduced except by diminishing the number of soldiers on the British establishment, a proposition to which I could not possibly assent, we must accept it as a permanent addition to Indian military expenditure.

It therefore behoves us to subject to more rigorous examination, with the view of keeping within the most economical limits, any proposals to meet other military difficulties. And this brings me to a proposition which excited a good deal of interest—namely, the proposal that a reserve for India should be located in South Africa, and that, towards the extra expense which the quartering of this reserve would entail, a certain contribution should be made from Indian revenues. Now, Sir, this proposal has met with great opposition, and on the ground that it is asking India to bear a charge which legitimately falls upon Imperial revenues alone. But such allegations show a complete misunderstanding both of the origin and of the nature of the proposal. The proposal arose as follows:—The steady and continuous advance of Russia, and the consolidation of her power in the immediate neighbourhood of our frontier, or of territory in which we have an exclusive political influence, is a fact which cannot be ignored. I have always shared the views expressed by the late Lord Beaconsfield that Asia is big enough for the aspirations both of the Russian and British Empires. I view the advance of Russia with no jealousy or special apprehension; but it is a fact that cannot be ignored that, year by year, the completing of her railways and other facilities of communication does give her an increasing power of military mobilisation on our frontiers, and of feeding and maintaining those so mobilised. The invasion of India is so serious a matter, and would entail such gigantic expenditure, that no country or Empire, however strong, would lightly undertake such a task. But it is an eventuality that cannot be summarily brushed on one side as outside the sphere of all practical politics, and it has been looked into by successive Governments. Every military and civil authority who has looked into the question, is of opinion that, in certain contingencies, a large reinforcement of our existing garrison in India would at once be necessary. The Admiralty would have to be consulted as to the transport of these reinforcements; and every Board of Admiralty with which I have any acquaintance, has been unanimous in stating that naval difficulties or combinations might occur which would preclude them from giving any guarantee that the troops could with safety be so transported to India.

This subject has been most exhaustively investigated during the past few months by a special branch of the Defence Committee. I was present at all these discussions, and I had with me three Anglo-Indian generals, all men of exceptional experience and knowledge. The War Office was represented by Lord Roberts and Sir William Nicholson; so that every military authority present was an Anglo-Indian general, and every one of them had a personal knowledge, from past campaigns, of the question which we were endeavouring to solve. I doubt if it would be possible ever again to get so unique a combination of personal expert experience. The investigation was conducted exclusively from an Indian point of view, and with a desire to save, as far as was practicable, Indian finance. There is an obvious method of meeting the difficulty, and that is by largely increasing the existing garrison in India. That is a measure which has been pressed upon me from various quarters, but it is one which I have declined to sanction, as it must entail a large and growing increase to our present military expenditure. Was there, then, any other place within the British Empire nearer to India where this reserve force could be located, and from which in time of emergency it might with certainty be transported to India? The Admiralty were unanimously of opinion that they could guarantee the transport of such reinforcements to India if they were located in South Africa. South Africa is a healthy country, and it lends itself to the physical development of soldiers who are training. The question then arose—and it was put entirely in the interests of India—Would it be possible for the War Office to make any arrangements by which this additional force should be maintained in South Africa to be at the call of India in any emergency which might arise? And the Secretary of State, after consultation with his military advisers, came to the conclusion that it would be possible to so add permanently to the troops located in South Africa as to establish for India's special benefit this Reserve. But the cost of maintaining this extra force would be very heavy; and it seemed only reasonable that, if it was located there for the benefit of

India, India should in some degree contribute towards the increased charge thus created. If this scheme could be carried out it would give to India a great moral and material Reserve, and thus give a guarantee against that increase to her garrison that otherwise might become unavoidable. After carefully considering the matter, I came to the conclusion with my military advisers that it was the most economical and most convenient proposal that could be made to meet this special difficulty. I have forwarded the proposal to the Indian Government, and they have taken an opposite view. They are opposed to it; and in consequence the Secretary of State for War has said that India will not now incur the expenditure which otherwise she would have incurred. I regret, therefore, that a favourable opportunity of obtaining at so slight a cost to India that which we required has been allowed to go by, and I am afraid that in the course of a very short time those who were its most ardent opponents will regret their action when they have to face the almost certain consequences of their successful agitation. I am waiting a despatch from the Government of India; but I certainly say, that if Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener both combine in their objections to the scheme, I could not press on the War Office an increase of expenditure which they were ready to incur for the purpose of placing this reserve at the disposal of India.

It is frequently assumed by native opinion in India, that India, in consequence of being an integral portion of the British Empire, is subject both to extra risk and taxation from which she would be free if she were a separate and self-supporting political entity. But this theory will not stand a moment's examination, and it is an entire delusion. From time immemorial, as far as history goes back, India has been invaded from the central plains of Asia until British rule, founded upon a sea base and upon naval supremacy at sea, established itself in the South of India and gradually rolled back what, up to that time, had been the ever-recurring tide of northern aggression. For a century or more India has been immune from the old terror of invasion and spoliation. She has had that protection because she is part of the British Empire. But the protection so afforded her has vitally affected our whole military system, for it has brought us, who are primarily a naval Power, to the boundaries and territories of the greatest military empire in the world. It is this contiguity which affects our military establishments and expenditure. And though I believe that the present relations and ties between Great Britain and India are beneficial to both, and have enabled each to contribute largely to the other's prosperity, the burden thrown upon this country of fulfilling its military obligations to India is a problem of ever-increasing difficulty. Those who have to solve that problem are not the Government of India, but the Imperial Government here. It is not from Indian, but from British resources that the reserves, reinforcements, and forces required in certain eventualities will have to be furnished.

Sir, it is the fashion in certain quarters to assume that India is constantly outwitted, and most inadequately protected by the India Office, in the transactions which occur between her and the Imperial Departments relating to payments for services rendered. This view is widely prevalent in India and in the Press, and is entertained by many Members of Parliament. But all the Departments with whom I have to transact business of this character hold diametrically opposite opinions. It is their ingrained belief that they lose rather than gain by the duties they have to perform, even though India pays for them. It is quite a delusion to suppose that these Departments have any wish whatever to make a profit out of the transaction, or to force on India an unfair or unjust bargain. They contend that it puts upon them certain charges for which the money payment by India does not compensate them. And there is a good deal to be said for their point of view. It is quite true that India pays the full cost of what she has; but it is equally true that her requirements put upon our military system a strain which I believe no financial payments can counterbalance. An establishment on a war footing of 75,000 men, fully trained and in the prime of life, has to be located and replenished in a tropical climate at the other end of the world. This, with the increased mortality inseparable from the climate and surroundings of India, is a very heavy tax upon a short service system of voluntary recruitment in the richest industrial community in the world; and, heavy as it is, it is only the vanguard of what in time of emergency might be required. It is a very difficult problem; and although I am often attacked for not adequately defending the revenues of India, no one who has been behind the scenes and had a long experience of official administration, can come to any other conclusion than that, on the whole, the arrangement made is not an unfair one, and that the home Departments do not make a profit out of it. The views I am now expressing are the result of a long and almost unique experience of the working arrangements between the War Office and the India Office. Originally I believed, when I first went to that Department nearly thirty years ago, that India did, and was intended to, get the worst of the bargains made, and I was instrumental in moving for a Select Committee that sat thirty years ago to inquire into that question. But the greater my knowledge and experience became, the more have I been compelled to modify my original opinion. Though it is my duty, as Secretary of State, to protect to the best of my ability India in the multifarious pecuniary transactions in which we are involved with other Departments, and although I am constantly in controversy, and sometimes in collision with those Departments, I find no wish on their side to make a profit out of any of the services rendered to India; nor do I find any evidence of any fixed intention on their part to force upon us unfair bargains on terms. The principle that should govern these inter-Departmental controversies is well and succinctly summarised in the language of the celebrated Select Committee of 1874, before which Lord Salisbury, the Duke of Cambridge, and Mr. Cardwell all gave evidence—

> "Your Committee cannot lay down too strongly the position that the English Estimates ought not to be relieved at the expense of Indian revenues, but that the Secretary of State for India in Council has the constitutional right of refusing to pay for objects in which he considers that India has no interest. At the same time, India, as a component part of the Empire, must be prepared to share in the cost of a system the expenses of which may be enhanced for Imperial purposes."

Upon this definition of respective obligations I have ever acted, and the two principles thus laid down every Secretary of State has observed. The system is really one of give and take, and it is only on that principle that the present arrangements can be worked. The reason in favour of the South African scheme was that, if it was convenient to the War Office, it was economical to India.

The widespread interest felt in the term of Lord Curzon's tenure of his present office has shown itself in various Questions addressed to me upon the subject, and I will, therefore, explain more fully than is possible in a Parliamentary answer the reason for the arrangement we have made. The past five years have been years of exceptional activity in India. Questions of the utmost importance relating to railways, irrigation, police, education, land settlements, and famine administration have been exhaustively investigated, and in each case Commissions of high authority have made recommendations of a far-reaching character. The Viceroy himself has inspected and reviewed many branches of Government action. There is, therefore, a mass of questions waiting to be dealt with, and the evidence is ready on which conclusions could be based. It seemed to us that it would be greatly to India's disadvantage if the Viceroy, who by his personal vigour had himself initiated all these inquiries, left office before he had time to put into shape and to ensure the acceptance and establishment of the reforms and improvements proposed. There is no legal limit to the tenure of office of the Governor-General of India, though usage has confined it to five years, but that is on the ground that five years hard work in a tropical climate is as much as most strong men can stand. But if a Viceroy leaves India for Europe, he *ipso facto* vacates his office. Lord Curzon's five years would terminate in January next. His Majesty's Government sounded him as to his willingness to remain for a further period. He accepted the proposition provided his health and strength would allow him to stay on, but the strain of his extraordinary labours during the past five years rendered it more than probable that, before a further prolongation of office, he would require a holiday of three or four months in Europe. Lord Curzon will, therefore, anyhow remain in India till the end of April next. If his health will then enable him to take up a fresh term of office we propose to extend it for a period of two years. But if he requires a holiday and comes to Europe he will vacate his office, but be re-appointed, on his return, for a period of not more than two years in addition to his original term. I sincerely hope that he may be able to undergo these fresh labours, for he would re-enter upon the office under singularly favourable auspices. The gigantic organism of India, inert though it may be in normal times, has, by the the events of the last five years, been stimulated to unwonted activity. The terrible calamity in the West of India originated for the relief of the afflicted measures of extraordinary magnitude and efficacy, and there has been produced in the minds of the sufferers not only gratitude for the succour so given, but a new sense of hope and trust in the power and goodwill of the British Government to protect them from calamities hitherto uncontrollable. At the Delhi Durbar—that great assemblage which met to do homage to the King-Emperor — the representatives of the races, creeds, and nationalities of one-sixth of the whole world's population were congregated together, and all present at that ceremony felt instilled into them a higher appreciation of the immensity of the organisation to which they individually belonged, and a quickened sense of national unity and power. Let us, then, hope that these newly-awakened influences may, under the firm and prescient guidance of Lord Curzon and the superlative services of which he is for the time being the head, be able to give their undivided attention to the development of those agricultural, industrial and educational projects without which India can never hope to attain among the nations of the world a place commensurate to her population and her resources.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair (for Committee on East India Revenue Accounts)."

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) expressed his regret that the arrangements of the Government were such that they never permitted a discussion upon the Indian Estimates before this period of the session, and the noble Lord the Secretary for State, he thought, should endeavour to remedy this state of things. As the Vote for the salary of the noble Lord did not come before the House for criticism, some opportunity should be given for discussing the important questions raised by this matter before the last day but one of the session. Once more it was necessary to complain that the Indian Budget was not brought on earlier in the session, when more than a handful of Members were present. The statement which the noble Lord had made of the increasing revenues of India was a justification for the Motion which he now brought forward for the abolition of India's import duties on manufactured goods. Twenty years ago the settled policy of abandoning these duties was adopted, but the fall of the rupee in 1894 brought about their re-establishment. To-day the exchange was steady and favourable, and in 1895 the Secretary of State had admitted that the re-consideration of the duties would be desirable as soon as financial equilibrium was established in India. Troublesome times and famine came; Lancashire not only waited, but did something to assist India in her troubles. Employers and operatives joined hands and raised a fairly large sum of money to help them. They did that because they knew that India needed help, and that anything which assisted India would in the long run be to the benefit of Lancashire. Their only object was to relieve distress and ultimately to do good to their trade. These duties were not defended on their merits, it was admitted that they were put on only for revenue purposes to meet certain financial difficulties. That being so, the only point he had to make clear was that the time had come for the abolition of the duties, and that there was a demand for their abolition. During the past five years the Indian Budget had shown large surpluses, estimated to amount to £14.774.000, or an average of nearly £3,000,000 per annum, and this year there was to be a reduction of the salt tax by 25 per cent., while the limit on incomes for assessment for income tax had been raised from £33 to £66. Even with these remissions there was an estimated surplus of £1,000,000, which the right hon. Gentleman hoped would be exceeded. That was more than sufficient to cover the loss caused by the removal of the import and Excise duties on cotton yarns and piece goods. That being so, surely the time had come when the right hon. Gentleman should keep the promise made some eight years ago. The cotton trade were not adopting a selfish attitude. They desired that India should be relieved of the Excise duties, that they should compete on fair terms, that the tax on the industry there should be removed at the same time as it was removed from the industry here, and that the other trades in this country which exported goods to India should be relieved of this burden. The financial difficulty, to meet which the duties were imposed, had disappeared; therefore the duties ought also to disappear. The cotton trade was at present in such a condition that the relief afforded by the removal of the duties would be greatly welcomed by everybody concerned. A large and representative deputation had waited on the Secretary of State, but the reply, though courteous, was not satisfactory. Resolutions had been passed by employers and operatives pressing for the removal of the duties, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would now take up an attitude more consistent with the promises made by him eight years ago. He begged to move.

*SIR JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester): In seconding this Motion I must congratulate the hon. Member on his able exposition of a difficult subject, and I am sure that the House has been pleased to listen to such an interesting and exhaustive statement from one who speaks with so much authority, as representing one of our greatest industries which gives employment to such large numbers of our countrymen. I am sure that everyone, both in the House and outside, will congratulate the Secretary of State for India on the continued improvement in the financial position of that part of the Empire, and that notwithstanding the expenses of famine and the constantly recurring incidents of petty warfare, a succession of surpluses fall to her lot must be a source of satisfaction to the Government of India and of envy to that of this country. At the same time, our satisfaction at this continuing surplus must be somewhat tempered by the reflection that it is obtained, in a measure, at the expense of the manufacturers and workpeople of this country. I am afraid that I am one who has importuned the Secretary of State during successive sessions by Questions with reference to the import duties imposed for the first time at the ports of India by right hon. Gentlemen opposite, the last time they sat on this side of the House. The effect of the answers to those Questions by the Secretary of State was that although he had now a surplus he could hold out no hope of a remission of the duties, having regard to the possible requirements of India, the implication being that the surplus was in a measure the direct result of those duties. Another cause of this continuing surplus is doubtless that, by extraordinary manipulations of the currency, by methods hitherto unknown, the annual loss to India by the fall of silver in terms of gold, has been checked, and as it was largely the loss on this account which gave rise to the need for raising revenue by means of duties, it seems reasonable, now that that loss has disappeared, the duties should also disappear, if they are injurious to trade, and especially to the trade of the United Kingdom. That those duties are injurious to the trade of the United Kingdom is, I submit, beyond argument; this was clearly shown at the time of their imposition, as the cotton industry was represented in this House in sufficient numbers and force as to finally obtain from the Government, not indeed the exclusion of Lancashire from the operation of the duties as first proposed, but a countervailing duty in India on all cottons above a certain count, which was calculated to remove the protective character of the duty proposed, but other industries, smaller doubtless in extent, remaining subject to the duty which was thus removed from Lancashire. My requests of the Secretary of State were, in effect, now that the Indian Exchequer was in funds and the primary cause of the necessity for the imposition of the duties removed, to remove the duties altogether, but that if he could not now remit them, or if the necessities of India required them permanently, if he will not give other trades also the benefit of the countervailing duty, and thus remove the protective character of the duty from those other trades which has been removed from the trade of Lancashire? I think that that is a reasonable request, and in accordance with the principles of commercial equity. It may be that other trades exporting from the United Kingdom to India are not so large in amount as that of Lancashire, but some of them are growing, and I submit that it should be the policy of this country to encourage that growth. Reading a special article in *The Times* last year on India, I see that the American Consul at Bombay has pointed out that India is likely to be a fertile field for the extension of the boot and shoe trade, and recommends American manufacturers to sedulously cultivate it. Now, I represent a constituency which is said to be the capital town of the boot and shoe trade, and in and around it some 50,000 people are said to be employed in that industry.

Besides this, many towns and large villages distributed over the Midland counties live almost entirely by this trade, with which India now very largely competes. There are large boot and shoe factories at Cawnpore and elsewhere in India, paying wages to their workmen of a few pence per day, men who, I am told, work the American machinery as well as Europeans. These factories not only compete in general trade in which they are protected by the duty, but large quantities of boots are purchased annually in India by the Government for the use of the Army. Boots for the manufacture of which plant was largely prepared in this country, and the orders having been placed in India instead, has caused much disappointment amongst the manufacturers of the Midland counties. Under these circumstances it will be seen that the duty—the protective duty—imposed on boots and shoes imported from the United Kingdom into India inflicts a hardship on that trade, and I think I am not unreasonable in asking that the injury which the House thought should be removed from the trade of Lancashire, should also be removed from one of the chief trades of the Midland counties—a trade to which the Australasian market, at one time a good market, has been closed by tariffs, and a trade which, in the face of severe and intense competition, needs new markets and the removal of all disabilities which it is in the power of the Government to effect. In a speech at Cambridge, in March, 1895, the right hon. Member for East Fife well defined the position and asked what possible justification there could be for singling out a particular industry for exemption? That question has never been answered.

I must here anticipate a question which might be asked in India, which is this: "Why do you object to our getting duties on boots or shoes and other articles from Americans and Germans and other foreigners?" The answer to the plain and simple mind is obvious, and it is: "Get as much as you like from the foreigner, as long as you, inhabitants of our own Empire, do not get it out of us. Get them out of Germany or America if you like, but not out of Lancashire, Leicestershire or Northamptonshire." But that might lead to a controversy upon which it might not suit the convenience of the House to enter at this period. But it is the simple mind which will answer and settle these questions. The men who will settle them will never have heard of Adam Smith; they will be settled in the factories and workshops of this country—in the marts of commerce, rather than the lecture-rooms of schools. If not in this Budget, at least in future Budgets, I hope that this injustice to trades in this country will be removed and the duties abolished. We have heard a good deal about duties lately, and we are promised a great deal more; but I do hope—and I speak with great respect—I do hope that right hon. Gentlemen opposite may find it convenient to explain why they were so ready to put on duties all along the line for the purpose of filling the Exchequer of India, while they object so strongly to any duty imposed for the purpose of helping to fill our own. I think that we have a claim on hon. Members opposite for their support to this Motion, inasmuch as they were primarily responsible for these duties of which complaint is made. It is true that they were brought to read the old story of the silver debtor and the gold creditor in a very acute form, as the finances of India were thereby approaching collapse; but by their action in closing the mints they commenced the legislation which has eventually restored the equilibrium of exchange, and therefore we might suppose that they would agree now to the abolition of the duties imposed. Here the mere mention, the merest suggestion, of fiscal change appears to agitate the country from end to end, and it is indeed remarkable that those in this country who pride themselves on being professors of economic orthodoxy should have passed over in silence, and without comment, the establishment, within a period of seven years, of both protection and bimetallism in free trade and monometallic India.

India has indeed of late years been the country of economic experiments; the corpus of India seems like the living animal in the hands of the vivisector, who tries what effect the removal of some important organ or the shock of some violent operation has upon the system as a whole; the experiment of duties has been apparently successful; the consumers of India having stood the shock very well, and the revenues having been much benefited. I refer, of course, to the consumers of British India; the consumers of the native States do not like them so well as they do not share in the revenue, at least, directly. The experiment of bimetallism, or the circulation of both silver and gold as legal tender money, at a legally fixed ratio, seems also to have been in a measure successful as the fluctuations and uncertainties of exchange between India and England seem to have disappeared, although they are as acute as ever between both England and India and the Far East. The remedy is a purely local remedy, but still satisfactory as far as it goes. But whether India, although seemingly unaffected at present, suffering probably from the numbness which succeeds a violent operation, whether India can maintain a condition of permanent health and prosperity after the removal of her time-honoured institution of the free coinage of silver, still remains to be shown. This is indeed a great experiment, and an experiment which every economist of repute has pronounced as certain to be attended with grave danger to any State that makes it. I feel, however, Sir, that I cannot pursue that subject further to-day. I can only say that while India is satisfied with the results of these scientific experiments we here can only regard them with interest and attention, but should it so be that she should some day wake up to discover that by her abandonment of free coinage she has sacrificed 50 per cent. of the value of her hoards of silver bullion, for centuries past the potential money of her people, for the smaller advantage of making the payment of her gold debt to England easier; then, in that case, I hope, that she will find a sympathetic ear in the Parliament of the paramount Power. But even if India remains satisfied with these experiments I must still protest that they should not be made at the expense of the constituencies of the United Kingdom, and the substance of this Motion is that in the first instance these duties were unjustifiable; but that now that the first cause for their imposition has disappeared, their maintenance is doubly so; and, further, I appeal to the House generally not to continue to sanction legislation which must show that parts of the country can squeeze privileges from it, which other parts, though equally entitled, are unable to obtain.

It is mere pedantry to contend that what is known as the Government of India is responsible. The Government of India is the Government of this country, and for the actions of the Governor-General and the Indian Council the Parliament of the United Kingdom is responsible. And in any inquiry into fiscal matters into which the Government are entering, or which they are contemplating, I hope that the system of India, both as regards tariffs and its tinkered currency, may occupy an important place: and further that that question of stupendous importance, exchange with the Far East, may also meet with consideration and attention. My excuse for taking part in this debate must be that I have seen India, and have been a landowner there: and the glimpses that I had in this way have induced me to follow with keen interest the lines of its economy and administration, and I must say that, although I think that mistakes have been made, yet I am not one of those who believe, nor do I share in any degree in the sentiment which is frequently unfortunately expressed in this country, that the Government of India, though parental in form, is stepfatherly in spirit, preferring the interests of the children of its own body to those of its step-children in India. On the contrary I believe that through all the turbulent scenes of their history, nothing more fortunate could have happened to that collection of States, geographically known as India, nothing could have occurred more likely to settle them in a condition of permanent peace and prosperity, than the establishment amongst them, of the Government, the absolute Government, of the British Crown. I believe that that Government is actuated by feelings of the utmost sympathy and goodwill for the welfare and the interests of its many millions of subjects without regard to colour, caste, or creed. It is, therefore, with reluctance that I even venture to criticise, and I certainly do not wish, by anything that might be said or done in this House, to increase in any way the difficulties of the administration of an Empire which is a duty already of stupendous responsibility, requiring a supreme degree of ability to efficiently discharge it. At the same time I cannot agree that the suppression of and the withdrawal of Indian affairs from the notice of this House is in the interests of either the Government or the people of India. That the interests of this House, one of the Chambers of the paramount Parliament, should be aroused in Indian affairs is, in my opinion. desirable. That the actions of the Secretary of State and the Government of India should be discussed in this House is. I submit, as constitutional as that those of the Prime Minister and the Government of this country should be, and I hope that in the course of seconding the Motion proposed by the hon. Member for Clitheroe I have not transgressed in any way the privileges which the freedom of debate habitually accords to Members of this House. I beg to second.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'that,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House is of opinion that, in view of the satisfactory Indian Budgets in the current and recent years, the duties imposed in 1894–5 on manufactured goods imported into India should be abolished.'"—(*Mr. Shackleton.*)

Question proposed, 'That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.) said that as many Members desired to speak on other subjects, it would perhaps be convenient that he should state the reasons why the Government could not possibly accept the Motion. He felt both surprise and regret at this Motion being proposed. He was surprised because he thought the view put forward by the hon. Gentleman opposite had been very fully met and satisfied by the reply his noble friend gave to the deputation that waited on him from Lancashire. With regard to the pledges the noble Lord was said to have given, all that he said was that as soon as the finances of India were in a satisfactory condition these duties would have to be dealt with. He had fully redeemed those pledges by the changes which he introduced into the tariff, by the abolition of the duty on imported yarn, and the assimilation of the lower duty of 3½ instead of 5 on the imported manufactured article to the Excise duty imposed on the manufactured article produced in India itself. Motions of the kind now under discussion were liable to give rise to misunderstanding, to increase suspicion, and to considerably diminish the respect and confidence the Indian people might otherwise feel in the House of Commons. Last year they discussed a Motion to put the salary of the Secretary of State on the Estimates, the object being to give this House more detailed control over the finances of India. They were finances to which the taxpayers of this country contributed nothing, and no Member of this House was representative of, or responsible to, a single Indian constituency. A Motion of that kind could only be justified on the assumption that in dealing with a purely Indian question this House was capable of looking at the matter from a somewhat broad standpoint, and capable of putting aside all prejudice and partiality.

*SIR JOHN ROLLESTON said it was not merely an Indian question.

*EARL PERCY said it was primarily an Indian question, and it seemed to him that the Motion now before them proved that some hon. Members, at any rate, of this House approached Indian questions rather more from the point of view of the British manufacturer than from the point of view of the Indian taxpayer. So far as it was an Indian question the hon. Member had admitted that the natives were not injured by the duty materially. They could not find in the whole of India anybody of native opinion in favour of doing away with these import duties. The only opinion expressed at all by the native members of the Viceroy's Council was not in favour of doing away with import duties. but of retaining them, and abolishing the Excise duties. His hon. friend took the opposite view, for he suggested that if the Government could not assent to the abolition of the import duties they should extend the system of Excise, and impose that Excise on all manufactured goods which competed with British imports. That proposal was certainly not made in the interests of either the Indian producer or consumer.

He proposed first of all to deal with the demand for the abolition of the whole of the Indian tariff. He did not stop to notice the suggestion made in the Motion of the hon. Gentleman opposite that they might abolish the Customs duties on manufactured articles while retaining the import duties on other goods. The duties on manufactured articles constituted by far the larger portion of the yield of the tariff, and if they were to take off the duty on manufactured goods the tariff would not be worth maintaining at all. Cotton alone represented 38 to 40 per cent. of the whole of the imports, and the revenue derived from duties on cotton represented one-sixth or one-seventh of the whole of the Customs revenue The suggestion of the hon. Member had been tried more than once in the past, and it had invariably failed. It was tried by Lord Lytton in 1878, when he abolished the duties on cotton, and in a very few years that was necessarily followed by the abolition of the whole of the Customs tariff. It was tried again in 1894, when the general import duties were re-imposed on articles other than cotton, and within a few months it was found impossible to maintain the exemption. Therefore, to propose the abolition of the duties on manufactured articles was practically to propose to abolish the whole import tariff. It meant asking India to sacrifice no less than £3,500,000 of revenue. India was unlike this country. We in England raised five-sixths of our total revenue from taxation. India only raised a quarter of her revenue in this way, and of that quarter the Customs revenue produced at least one-sixth. Anybody who made the suggestion that India should sacrifice a revenue of £3,500,000 was bound to show one of two things—either that India could dispense with that revenue altogether, or be able to suggest some other source of revenue which would provide a similar amount without imposing a greater burden on the Indian people. The hon. Gentlemen, who moved and seconded the Motion, had both selected the first alternative. They pointed to the prosperous Budgets of the last few years, and proceeded to draw the inference that, in view of this prosperity, India could dispense with that source of revenue. The satisfaction with which we regarded these prosperity Budgets must be qualified by several considerations which he would refer to shortly. But even if that were not so, it seemed to him that the inference the hon. Gentlemen drew was manifestly absurd. The fact that there had been for the last four years Budgets which showed a net surplus of £11,000,000 was clearly no argument for a further abandonment of revenue of £3,500,000 when all these Budget surpluses had been already allocated to the reduction of taxation, or to increased expenditure, and were, therefore, no longer available for a further reduction. Of course it might be said that a succession of surpluses of this kind for a number of years was an argument that there would be a similar succession of surpluses in future. He hoped that might be so, but it was clearly not an hypothesis which they were justified in reckoning upon. It was rather an extraordinary hypothesis for hon. Members to put forward seeing that only a few years ago they were pressing this House to make a large grant in aid of the Indian revenue.

His noble friend had reminded the House that the revenue of India was subject to great variations and fluctuations, and that the calls on that revenue were very great. He might add that they could hardly make the assumption that these surpluses would continue, without casting somewhat of a reflection on the capacity of the Finance Minister in India implying that he was budgeting for a smaller surplus than he was likely to get, and that we were maintaining the taxation of the Indian people at a higher level than was justified by the exigencies and necessities of Indian finance. He did not deny that these Budgets constituted a very satisfactory feature. They proved the recuperative power of the country, they were evidence of the soundness of the basis of our financial system and they proved the elasticity of the revenue. The inference which he should draw from these facts was that we ought to be careful how we disturbed the basis of a system which had only recently been settled, and which had yielded such very surprising and satisfactory results, that we ought to think twice before we rashly surrendered any source of revenue which showed a capacity for expansion, and that in determining reductions of that taxation we ought to select those which would give the maximum of relief to the taxpayers and involve the minimum of loss to the revenue. That was the principle the Government had followed in the last Budget. They had not abandoned any single head of revenue. They had given relief where they believed it would be most felt—namely, in respect of the salt tax, income tax, and land tax, and by the remission of the interest on their debt to the small and impoverished States. He did not know that anybody in the House would contend that anything like the same relief would have been given by the abolition of the Customs duties. To abolish the Customs duties would have been to surrender a large and expanding source of revenue, but the modification of the salt duty only meant the temporary surrender of a revenue which was already stationary, and would, we hoped, expand in consequence of an increase of consumption. The reduction of the salt duty and the remission of land revenue were forms of relief which touched practically the whole of the very poorest classes in India. A relief of the Customs duty would do nothing of the kind. He observed that Sir Edward Law, the Finance Minister, in his speech in the course of the Indian Budget, estimated that the proportion of Customs duty which was paid by the very poor only amounted to 20 per cent. Even if that were not so, the surpluses at their disposal had not been sufficient to permit of an entire surrender of the Customs revenue. Out of the whole £11,000,000 of surpluses which they had had during the last four years they had only been able to give towards the relief of taxation a sum of a little over £2,000,000. That was to say, it was more than £1,000,000 less than they would have to surrender if they did away with the Customs tariff. The reason why they had been able to devote so small a share of the surpluses to the relief of taxation was partly that the surpluses were, in themselves, to a certain extent, artificial. These surpluses had been due to the proceeds of the countervailing duty on sugar—a new form of taxation which had only recently been tried, and which had been brilliantly successful—and to the large savings which India had derived from the employment of a great portion of her military forces in South Africa and China. These were temporary in character, and neither of them would have justified a large and permanent remission of revenue.

The second reason why they had devoted so small a portion to the relief of taxation was the same cause with which they were all familiar in this country—namely, that the growth of revenue had been more than counterbalanced by the increase in expenditure.

A great many hon. Gentlemen argued that much of this expenditure was unnecessary and ought to be dispensed with. He did not agree with that. He thought, however, that it was a logical point of view that if they were going to surrender a large portion of revenue they ought to begin by cutting down their expenditure. The increase in net expenditure could not fairly be attributed to the Army Vote. It had been pointed out that during the last eleven years the revenue had increased by £17,000,000, and that the expenditure on the Army had only increased by £1,500,000; and taking the last two decades, the proportion of military expenditure to the total revenue had fallen from 26 to 24 per cent. The real reasons why the expenditure had increased were the very large outlay on public works, especially on irrigation, much of which was, of course, of a reproductive character, but much, and, if the recommendations of the Irrigation Committee were carried out, an increasing proportion of which would bring in no direct return. In addition to that, they would have to meet in the future very large charges for sanitation, police reforms, and education, which in all its branches was in a seriously backward condition. Hon. Members would see that, in view of these growing liabilities and the uncertainty of a revenue which depended mainly on agriculture, it would be folly to throw away a source of revenue which yielded a considerable sum, which imposed no serious burden on the people, and which violated no canon of the most orthodox political economy. He did not propose to labour the point whether these duties were protective. They were not imposed with that object; and he did not think that they had that effect. He did not suppose that his hon. friend could produce a single authority on political economy who would say that a general all-round 5 per cent. *ad valorem* duty involved an infringement of free trade principles. He had read the debate in the House of Lords on the fiscal question, and every ex-Viceroy of India who took part in it went on the assumption, which no one thought of disputing, that the fiscal system of India was a free trade system. Hon. Gentlemen on this side of the House voted last year for a shilling duty on corn without a corresponding Excise duty, and hon Members opposite were equally debarred from contending that the Indian tariff was protective because they had lately challenged very strongly the statement made by the right hon. the Colonial Secretary that the citizens of the British Empire took £10 per head of our manufactures, on the ground that he had included the imports into India, which was a free trade market.

*MR. LOUGH (Islington, W): The Colonial Secretary said the self-governing colonies. The question was not whether India was a free trade market.

*EARL PERCY said that the question of self-government was irrelevant. He admitted, however, as a matter of pure theory—or pedantry as he preferred to call it—that if you put a tax upon an article which could be manufactured in the country which taxed it, without imposing an equivalent excise, that tax might be described as protective.

MR. LOUGH: That was not the Colonial Secretary's statement.

*EARL PERCY said that that was his own statement. So far as abstract devotion to free trade was concerned, they had already done homage to it in the case of the cotton duties. They had retained the tax on manufactured goods but had also levied an equivalent Excise duty on the native product. Nobody, except Lancashire, alleged that this import duty was protective. The total imports of cotton goods had steadily risen. He thought that Lancashire had been very much in error in attributing so much effect to the protective character of the old duty on yarns. That duty had been abolished, and yet the statistics showed that the Lancashire imports had steadily fallen off. The reason was the competition of the Indian mills, with their advantage of cheap labour, and the changes of native fashions. The case of Lancashire had always been treated as exceptional. Lancashire had had a very large and a very long established trade with India—a trade which depended to a great extent for its prosperity on exports to the Indian market, and also to a very large extent on the Far Eastern market in which India itself was a serious competitor. The margin of profit on the Far Eastern market was so small that it was feared that a very small advantage given to the Indian producer might turn the balance in his favour. The Indian mills were very numerous and very largely capitalised, employing more than 200,000 men, and enjoying the further advantage that the Indian manufacturers drew their raw material from the country itself and consequently escaped the duty. Now, none of those conditions applied to the other trades. There was not one of them which had more than a comparatively small trade with India itself. He was not aware that any single one of them competed with India in the Far Eastern markets. Take the boot and shoe industry, to which the hon. Member had referred, and in which he was especially interested. The bulk of that industry in India was carried on by the small village traders, to whose products, like the products of the hand-loom weavers, it was not possible to apply the Excise duty, and who did not make the kind of goods which were imported from abroad. The only people who might be considered to compete with the British manufacturers were the large shops in the Presidency towns and the owners of three or four large factories. The prosperity of the factories almost entirely depended on Government orders, in respect of which they enjoyed no advantage whatever from the duty, for the simple reason that Government stores could be imported into India free of duty. The large shops again made their goods from English leather which had already paid duty, so that if a further Excise duty were imposed on the manufactured articles they would be put to a very serious disadvantage as compared with the small village producers. He supposed that his hon. friend was afraid that some of these home trades were being seriously injured by the existing duties. He had no evidence of that at all. He had had the averages taken out for the four-year periods from 1885–6 onwards. The total imports between 1885–6 and 1888–9 amounted to £37,400,000. In the next four years they had risen to £44,128,000. In 1893–4 and 1894–5 the imports were abnormally swollen by shipments in anticipation of the duty. From 1895–6 to 1898–9, they amounted to £46,000,000; and in the succeeding four years they had risen to £51,000,000. In regard to boots and shoes, the imports into India were in 1894–5, £84,000; and in 1902–3 they had risen to £122,000; while as to other leather goods they had risen from £114,000 to £118,000. Of course, it might be said that, even if these duties were not protective in their character, they indirectly affected the producer by limiting the capacity of the consumer. That, however, was not an argument for extending the range of Excise duties, and, as a matter of fact, he did not think the main contention could be sustained. In the debate in the Viceroy's Council it was stated that, owing to the fall in price amounting to 12½ per cent. the Indian consumer had not paid the duty, but had been able to shift it very largely, if not entirely, upon the foreign producer. In any other country we should say that that was an ideal state of things, and the only reason why it was not ideal in the case of India was that the larger proportion of these imported goods belonged to this country. In other words, India was being asked to sacrifice herself, not on the altar of outraged fiscal purity, but on the altar of Imperial sentiment.

He recognised the large part which sentiment played in Imperial relations. On occasion sentiment might be allowed to overrule even purely business considerations. He could not help seeing that the great obstacle at present to Imperial consolidation was the fiscal barriers which our own colonies had raised against the mother country, and that even in the case of India the existence of a tariff which was not protective at all, which did not exclude British products, but was imposed simply for revenue purposes, was a constant source of friction, bitterness, and misunderstanding between the two countries. But the suggestion that India should cease to levy revenue from the produce of the mother country was only legitimate on two conditions The first was that, if India was to consider the mother country in its fiscal relations, the mother country should also consider India in her fiscal relations. At the present moment we did nothing of the kind. For example, we taxed tea, of which India, with Ceylon, had practically a monopoly, having driven Chinese tea almost out of the market, to the extent of 80 per cent. of its value. And the second condition was that, if India was to sacrifice a large revenue, those who asked for that sacrifice should be prepared to suggest some alternative source from which she could derive a revenue as large, and one which inflicted as little burden on the population. No such suggestion had been made in the debate, and he was not prepared to make any. It was very remarkable that when in 1893 Lord Herschell's Commission went thoroughly into the question, they came to the conclusion that they could recommend no other method of raising the necessary revenue except the re-imposition of the Customs tariff. The only mode of raising revenue which India had since discovered was the addition to the tariff of countervailing duties on sugar. Without a tariff he did not see how she could meet her large and growing expenditure. Of course, it was possible that a modification of the tariff in one direction might be compensated for by modification in another. It was possible that by selecting those articles which foreign nations imported into India and increasing the duties upon them, and exempting or lowering the duties on goods from this country, India might derive a revenue equal to that which she abandoned and without any greater cost to her consumers. That did not necessarily entail any departure from the fiscal system which she had hitherto maintained. If the articles taxed were not articles which we exported, or which India produced, it was obvious that such a tariff would not involve any more departure from free trade principles than was involved by the imposition of the general duties in 1894 and the special exemption of the cotton imports of which Great Britain was almost the sole exporter. It was possible, also, that India might raise the revenue she required by export duties on raw products of which she possessed a virtual monopoly. The answer to this and the like questions could only be given after minute and careful inquiry into the circumstances and conditions of Indian trade, and should not be answered in the affirmative unless it could be shown to be to the interests, not only of Great Britain or of the Empire, but of India itself. The main hope for India in the future, as everybody knew who had studied the question, lay not only in the extension of her agriculture, but in the development of her mineral and industrial resources. They had had some very serious illustrations, during the last few famine years, of the value of cheap food to a population which had no money wherewith to buy it, and the only remedy for that state of things was to increase the diversity of openings for employment. He hoped we should not allow any selfish motives on our part to stand in the way of such development. Any fiscal change which was adopted must be dictated by Indian as much as by British interests, must be the outcome of very careful consideration of the whole circumstances and conditions of the case, and a change which carried with it some guarantee of stability and permanence.

*MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said he desired to support the Motion of the hon. Member for Clitheroe in the interests of the people of India, as well as in the interests of the people of Lancashire. The question of import duties carried with it, as a matter of course, the question of the imposition of Excise duties, which were imposed solely to balance them. He believed it would stimulate the manufacturing industry of India, as well as that of Great Britain, if those two duties which now balanced each other were abolished. They were told by the hon. Member for South Kensington that they ought to be satisfied, because the import duty had been reduced to the amount of the Excise duty. But it was not so, and the people of Lancashire and the people of India both demanded the abolition of those duties. It was surely worth the Government's while to notice that nearly all the imports of cotton into India came from Great Britain. The import duties on cotton manufactures were a tax on the very poorest of the people. That was, of course, emphatically true of the salt tax also, and he must congratulate the Government on having been able to reduce it. That was an odious tax indeed, and he, for one, was not going to urge that duties on cotton demanded reduction more than the duty on salt. He thought they ought to go together, because they were unquestionably taxes on the very poorest. The cotton trade in India had progressed. Government Returns showed that in number of spindles, looms, and capital invested, the Indian cotton manufacture in the last ten years had increased 50 per cent. But of late the cotton trade of India had been rather depressed, and, of course, the cotton trade of Lancashire was fearfully depressed. He believed the cotton trade of Lancashire was suffering at the present time more intensely than it had done since the American war. Everybody was hoping that the spindles would soon be busily going again; but surely this was a peculiarly opportune moment to abolish these duties. He was one of those who believed in having very few articles on the Customs list. He thought the present was too large a list for the amount of revenue raised. The Indian people, as well as those of Lancashire, believed that if these duties were abolished the Government of India would recoup the amount they realised by the increased prosperity of the country. The Secretary of State for India, in 1895, promised that when the finances of India had reached equilibrium these duties should be abolished.

*EARL PERCY: I think the right hon. Gentleman said dealt with.

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR said at all events Lancashire thought he meant to abolish the duties. If there had been surpluses totalling £12,000,000 during the last four years, and the finances of India had not reached equilibrium, he wondered when they would do so. It had been asked what was to be taxed instead. But to pay that was not the duty of the Opposition. It was the duty of the Opposition to oppose what they thought undesirable, and the duty of the Government to propose what they believed to be desirable. He felt the Secretary of State for India had the interests of the country at heart; but he would serve those interests and the interests of Lancashire best by abolishing these duties.

MR. HERBERT WHITELEY (Ashton-under-Lyne) said he had listened with discouragement to the speech of the noble Earl. He had hoped that they would receive better treatment in view of the definite promise given to Lancashire in 1895, that when a satisfactory equilibrium was reached as regarded the finances of India, this matter should be dealt with. Now that the finances of India had reached this satisfactory condition — and they were all hoping that it would be permanent—and seeing that in spite of the large remissions in regard to both the salt duty and the tax on incomes there was still a surplus of over £1,000,000, they thought that some of it might be devoted to taking off these duties, and he trusted that they had not heard the final word on the subject. He did not think that they in Lancashire wished to be unreasonable. The duties were put on because they were told that they were in the interests of India. The interests of India were the interests of Lancashire, and *vice versâ*, and they accepted the duties without a murmur. But the time had now arrived for reconsideration of the matter.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) thought that the speech of the noble Earl had let the cat out of the bag, and he thanked him for making it, because they in Lancashire had evidently been under the delusion all these years in thinking that the cotton duties were in a category by themselves. Now they found there was a change in the policy of the noble Lord at the India Office. Unless they mistook the noble Lord's words, his policy was that these duties were in a category by themselves, firstly, because the cotton trade was there long before the duties were thought of, and had grown up under a free trade system; secondly, because it was peculiarly and almost exclusively a British trade; and, thirdly, because in competing with India it was competing with a country where the raw material was at the doors of the mills which were its rivals. There was no doubt that the universal impression amongst those who had taken part in this matter was that these duties might be dealt with by themselves. The words used in 1895 were that when a satisfactory equilibrium had been established between income and expenditure the cotton duties should be the first to receive consideration. Now the noble Earl told them that they could not be dealt with except the whole Customs were dealt with. Undoubtedly, when the duties were put on, the whole storm raged round those pertaining to cotton. It had been so ever since. The noble Lord had given Lancashire to understand that the cotton duties could be dealt with separately, and now they were to understand that it was useless to hope that they would be done away with unless the whole of the Customs were done away with. Was that a reasonable position to take up? The noble Lord had stated that the cotton duties were only about one-sixth of the total Customs duties. Was not the other five-sixths worth preserving? It was a most absurd contention, and one not in the least warranted by the facts. This duty had always been promised special treatment, and now it was said that it could only be dealt with when all the Customs duties were abolished. He objected to the sneer that those who were pressing for the removal of these duties were actuated by selfish motives. They all felt their responsibility towards the Indian Empire, and they wished to do their duty to their fellow-subjects who had no voice in that House, but he did not think when they were asking for what they considered the fulfilment of a plain bargain, that they ought to be considered selfish. They were bound to defend their trade, which paid a great deal towards the maintenance of the Army and Navy and the general expenses of the Empire They must not kill the goose that laid the golden egg. It was said—he did not know how far it was correct—that Lancashire and Yorkshire paid about one-fifth of the cost of carrying on the Empire, and, speaking for themselves, he thought they had a right to ask the noble Lord to deal very gently with the source of income which enabled them to bear this enormous taxation. The noble Lord spoke of 20 per cent. of the population not being benefited by this duty. But five-sixths of the population of India were clothed almost exclusively in cotton, and 3½ per cent. on all clothing represented a considerable sum. About 400,000 people were employed in the cotton industry in India; they were interested in buying goods cheaply, and every duty taken off Indian products enlarged their market. He had risen to emphasise the effect of the speech of the noble Lord. Lancashire had agitated and would continue to agitate this question, and it was well that they should understand what they were agitating about. It was necessary that the country should understand that this duty would not be further touched until the whole Customs duties of India were abolished, and he contended that the decision was contrary to the understanding which had prevailed from the first, to the promises which had been given from time to time, and to the welfare of both Lancashire and India.

LIEUT.-COLONEL GEORGE KEMP (Lancashire, Heywood) said that what he and, he believed, the majority of people in Lancashire understood on the occasion of the deputation to which reference had been made, was that the noble Lord would do away with the inequality by which the Lancashire producer of cotton goods was at a disadvantage as compared with the Indian producer. That promise had been kept, and he was unable to find any undertaking to abolish the duties altogether. At the same time, in view of the noble Lord's statement that India was greatly prospering, he was very disappointed that no prospect was held out of the removal of the duties. They who represented Lancashire constituencies felt that it was most important that regard should be paid to the cotton industry. They did not urge their case in any selfish spirit, but when they had been told that, as soon as Indian finances could bear it, the question would be further dealt with, they had a right to ask that something should be done.

*MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham), in supporting the Motion, said the question which had been brought into special prominence in the debate was that of the noble Lord's promise and its fulfilment. His right hon. friend did not deny the statement that the cotton duties should be the first to be dealt with, so that those duties had had assigned to them a place different from that occupied by other duties, and were to be regarded in a special light. The noble Lord now declared that they were not to be so regarded, and that they could not be dealt with unless the whole of the Customs tariff was re-arranged. That provided a legitimate ground of complaint, and he found in it sufficient reason for supporting the Amendment before the House. The right hon. Gentleman had given them to understand that the question would be considered when Indian circumstances permitted. Since then India had become more prosperous, and unfortunately there was at the same time a transient, but very real and serious, depression in the cotton trade. That depression might be ascribed to various causes, and, though arising out of shortage of raw material and speculation in the United States, it would be utilised to turn people's minds in the direction of other and larger proposals not yet before the country. Lancashire, however, in this case, as he hoped they would in all others, asked simply for free trade in the commodity they principally exported. There was no trade in which cheapness of production counted for so much as in the cotton trade. The consumers of cotton goods were very poor people, and in the Indian climate they could easily reduce their demand if the goods were expensive. The removal of the restriction on the importation of cotton would stimulate the purchasing power of the great home market in India, and that ought to be the first concern of statesmen. What a little thing this duty was to cause so much disturbance, irritation, and inconvenience to the trade. The whole yield of the duty to the Indian Exchequer was only £667,000 a year, or considerably less than the sum being thrown on the Indian revenues for the pay of soldiers for purely English purposes. These instances of protection were very instructive. The Indian tariff was extremely complicated, and extended to an enormous number of articles, but the return was contemptibly small compared with the irritation and friction it engendered, and of all the items in that tariff there was none which more urgently called for revision than the cotton duties. The noble Lord had undoubtedly excited hopes which had not been justified, and they made this protest because they did not altogether despair that, in the near future, the improvement of the finances of India would render possible that which ought to have been done before.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) said that although the noble Earl had advanced the argument that it was incumbent on the Member who moved this Motion to suggest an alternative source of revenue, he seemed to indicate a consciousness of the fact that there was another alternative, because he referred to the probability of a reduction in the excessive expenditure on the military establishment in India. It was not absolutely necessary, if the cotton duties were to be abandoned, that the revenue should be made up in another way, as a corresponding reduction of expenditure might easily be effected in the enormously inflated military expenditure of India.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 98; Noes, 30. (Division List No. 263.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, RtHn. Gerald W (*Leeds*
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, RtHnJ. A (*Worc.*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Fyler, John Arthur
Gore,Hn. S.F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(*Midd'.*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T
Horner, Frederick William
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawson,JohnGrant(*Yorks.NR*
Lawson,Sir Wilfrid(*Cornwall*)
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lewis, John Herbert
Long,RtHn.Walter(*Bristol,S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(*Bute*
Nicholson, William Graham
Pemberton, John S. G
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Samuel,Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Thompson,DrEC (*Monagh'nN*
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirC E.H(*Sheffield*
Walrond,Rt. Hn Sir William H
Williams,RtHnJ Powell(*Birm*
Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(*Bath*
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Atherley-Jones, L.
Bell, Richard
Broadhurst, Henry
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dunn, Sir William
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Harwood, George
Hayne,Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Lambert, George
Lough, Thomas
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
Markham, Arthur Basil
Murphy, John
O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
O'KellyJames(*Roscommon,N.*)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Taylor,Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Ure, Alexander
Wilson, Henry J. (*York, W.R.*

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Shackleton and Mr. Herbert Whiteley.

Main Question again proposed.

Debate arising.

*SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): After the strange protestations of sympathy with the people of India to which we have been treated by the various hon. Members for Lancashire who have spoken in support of the Motion so deservedly defeated a few moments ago, it is refreshing to revert to the consideration of those subjects which legitimately pertain to the true interests of that country, and which are suggested by the statement of the noble Lord. There is every reason to congratulate him and the Government of India on the favourable aspect of India's financial condition, which the noble Lord so lucidly delineated this afternoon, and more especially on the very judicious use made of the surplus which they found at their disposal for the reduction of the salt tax and the income tax. These are the taxes that press most heavily on the poorer classes of India, and although I should like to see a further reduction made in the near future in the former, and the scale of taxable incomes raised to earnings of 1,200 rupees a year, I confers that what has been done so far is deserving of grateful recognition. The benefit of any such surpluses rightfully belongs to the people of India, and not to Lancashire or any other constituency here, as was claimed by those who supported the Motion against which we have just voted. Another matter which calls for congratulations to India is the announcement of my noble friend that the services of Lord Curzon will be secured to her beyond the present term of his office. As one who begged for it on the Budget debate last year, I rejoice that this arrangement has been made, and Lord Curzon deserves our thanks for putting aside considerations of personal convenience in consenting to continue his work there and carry to completion the many undertakings which he has begun and formulated. All of them are useful, but to my mind that for the development of the industrial resources and technical instruction of India is of paramount importance to assure her future prosperity. The reference made to the need of it both by the noble Lord and the Under-Secretary to-night fills me with the hope that a great effort will ere long be made to supply that great national want. Still I must deplore the fact that so little has been done as yet, and I should like to know at what stage the inquiry instituted by Lord Curzon on that subject has arrived. So far back as in April last, I was informed by the Secretary of State that the Report of the Committee would be published soon, but now after four months from that date we know nothing further. The noble Lord referred in his speech to the gift of an American citizen of £20,000 for some object of public benefit to India, and stated that Lord Curzon had devoted that sum to the establishment of an institute of agricultural science and research. That was no doubt wise, and we are thankful to the donor. But the fact that so essentially agricultural a country as India should have had to wait for a gift from a strange visitor before the first institute of that kind could be started there, suggests the significant reflection that some more energy and enterprise should be put into the work of India's industrial development than has been the case hitherto. When I inform the House that the trifling sum of less than £30,000 is all that is devoted to the purpose of technical and industrial education in all India, it will not be surprised that I should once again refer to this matter here, after having done so at some length in previous years, and plead for more zeal and solicitude towards it.

I must allude also to another matter of grave concern to the interests and even the honour of India, namely, the treatment of our fellow-subjects of that country in British colonies, especially in Africa. In view of the more important subject of war charges awaiting consideration to-night, I am unwilling to devote as much time as I should like to do to this question. That British-Indian subjects are treated in our colonies with a harshness which they have done nothing to provoke or deserve is now an admitted fact. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, with all his authority and influence, and in spite of all his sympathetic assurances, has failed to obtain any appreciable relief or redress. I am thankful to him for the consideration he has paid to my representations to numerous cases of hardship, and I shall continue to engage his attention to the subject in future. But it is apparent now that the real remedy lies with India herself when all other help is failing. It must be gratefully owned that the Secretary of State for India has pressed for redress, and I rejoice that the Government of Lord Curzon has insisted on asking for better treatment before they respond to the demand from those colonies for Indian labour. That demand is becoming more pressing every day, and, feeling that Africa's need will be India's opportunity, I was pleased to see this telegram from Johannesburg in yesterday's *Times*—

> "The Labour Importation Association held a meeting at Geldenhuis Deep last night at which some 300 miners and others were present. A resolution was put to the effect that, in view of the gravity of the situation brought about by the dearth of native labour, the meeting pledged itself to support the Association in their endeavour to secure unskilled Asiatics. The resolution was carried, there being sixteen dissentients. The Lieutenant-Governor has been asked to forward a copy of the motion to Mr. Chamberlain."

Thus for their own selfish interest, the colonists will be compelled to approach the Secretary of State and the Viceroy to obtain labour from India, and I trust that they will contemptuously refuse to be parties to a single labourer going out to the colonies until the people there consent to treat British Indians, as they have a right to be treated, with that justice and those full privileges which are the common heritage of all His Majesty's subjects.

There are many other matters relating to India which might well engage the attention of hon. Members for a considerably longer time than is usually allotted for the discussion of the Budget, and I therefore regret the decision of the Prime Minister to restrict us again to one evening, and that on the eve of the prorogation. Last autumn the Government were compelled at the eleventh hour to allow the debate to go over a second day because a few Members persisted in discussing a small question with reference to Lord Curzon's treatment of a regiment, and one would have thought that so recent an experience would have induced the Government to make a like concession this session, when the far more important question of the imposition of a large burden on the finances of India for Army charges, complicated as it is by the dissent of her own Government, demands the fullest consideration and arbitrament of this House. The people of India regard the imposition of these new Army charges as a flagrant act of injustice, an opinion which is largely endorsed here by men of every shade of politics who are at all conversant with the conditions of that country; and I have only given expression to the universal feeling entertained, both here and there, in placing on the Paper the Motion—"That, in the opinion of this House, the imposition of an additional burden on the Indian Exchequer of £786,000 per annum, on account of the increased pay of the British soldier, and of a further annual charge of £400,000 to defray a portion of the cost of maintaining 25,000 troops in South Africa, is unjustifiable by reason of its being entirely uncalled for by the actual military requirements of India, and is sure to react disastrously on her financial position." With regard to the first named charge of £786,000, the most remarkable thing is that until well nigh its public announcement, here the Government of India were not given any opportunity of stating their views thereupon. This strange omission was explained away by the Secretary of State for War on the ground that—"Circumstances rendered the premature disclosure of the intentions of Government inadvisable." And in reply to a Question, the right hon. Gentleman was good enough to explain to me further that—"Any question of an increase of pay to the Army is necessarily kept strictly confidential, as such proposals, if not carried through after they have been entertained, would lead to discontent." I hardly think this excuse can be deemed satisfactory by hon. Members, assuming as it does that they were bound to accept the proposals as soon as the Secretary of State for War submitted them to the House, for otherwise there would have been discontent in the Army. Its second assumption is that the Government in India could not be trusted to maintain secrecy even if the home authorities enjoined such secrecy. Is it to be seriously maintained that the Cabinet were so distrustful of His Majesty's Viceroy in India, or at least of his ability to keep a secret, that for that reason they had to forego the advantage of having his and his Council's views on a question of this magnitude? Sir, such a contention could only result in weakening the hold of the Government of India on the people there, and I trust in the course of this debate the excuse given by the Secretary for War will be disavowed on the part of His Majesty's Ministers. The more intelligible explanation of this episode would appear to be that, knowing full well that the universal voice of India, official and non-official, would be raised in condemnation of this new burden, they came to their decision without consulting the Indian Administration, counting on the futility of any subsequent protest. That decision took no note of any considerations connected with her military needs and of the ability of India to meet the new charge. These were the two essential and fundamental points to be borne in mind before arriving at the decision, and the only competent opinion thereon could be that of the Government of India, and no other. That opinion is now given, and it has behind it the emphatic endorsement of every organ of public opinion in India, without one solitary exception, in condemnation of the proposal of the War Office.

The only return to India for the additional bill of upwards of £750,000 sterling per year which she is called upon to pay is that, in the words of the War Office, "she gains a better quality of soldier," that is to say, her military strength will be augmented. If so, it is only a further argument for reducing the number of British troops there. Her military needs to-day are the same as they have been, say, in the last twenty years. There is nothing to convince us to the contrary. So that if you replace every soldier there with another of a better quality, you make her pay for an unnecessary increase in the strength of her army, unless by reducing the number you allow her to counter-balance the additional cost of the more efficient soldier. This disposes of the solitary plea on which the War Office has sought to justify its demand. It is true that the decision of the Lord Chief Justice, to whose arbitration the difference between the Indian and home Governments was referred, has been given in favour of the demand against India. No one can question the legality of that finding on the issue placed before that high authority. But I contend that if the Indian Administration was of opinion, as it was, that India's military requirements and her finances alike made it undesirable for her to incur any additional expenditure, the matter ought not to have been carried further. They were and could be the only competent judges of these primary issues, and they decided them in favour of India. In coming to that conclusion the Viceroy's whole Council, which comprised the Commander-in-Chief and the military member, were unanimous. In their later despatch of the 30th October last they adhered to their original views, emphatically declaring that they did "not require either re-inforcement or repetition." Immediately after that date Lord Kitchener succeeded to the command of the Indian Army, and in the absence of anything known to the contrary, it is but fair to assume that he has not differed from that conclusion, a fact which ought to lend overwhelming weight to the position taken up by the Government of India. In fact, the reasons adduced by them in support of their protest are convincing and remain unrefuted. They are reasons dictated by bare justice to the people of India for whose welfare they are responsible, and in speaking out against the demand of the War Office, they merely voiced the cry of a helpless population, standing generally on the brink of poverty and famine, to be saved from a merciless exaction. If this charge cannot even yet be withdrawn, I trust that its burden will be lessened by a reduction in the number of troops maintained on the Indian establishment.

The welcome announcement of the noble Lord that the Cabinet had decided to abandon that part of their scheme of the South African garrison which threw half its cost on the Indian Exchequer, relieves me from the necessity of arguing in support of the reference to that head in my Motion. I congratulate the noble Lord on being able to make this announcement, and feel that Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener, whose protest has brought it about, are entitled to the gratitude of all India, where this announcement will be hailed with delight. There was almost a consensus of opinion on both sides in this House against this proposal, but the tension caused by it has been relieved since the declaration to abandon it was made. Sir, India has paid all along every penny of the huge cost of maintaining a large military establishment, twice as large in respect of British troops as her own requirements warranted. In the last twenty-five years, and more, she has lent thousands of her troops, both British and native, for purely Imperial necessities, and when occasionally you have reimbursed her the cost of the men for the time they were actually employed on expeditions abroad, you have taken endless credit for being just to her. But even then you have not repaid your full debt to her, for you give not a penny piece to the credit of the enormous outlay she makes, year in and year out, for the training and maintenance of those troops. And yet you were coolly proposing to saddle her with the cost of half the garrison you have to plant in South Africa, on the plea that India might have, some day in the future, need of the services of half that force. Some vague apprehension of an emergency was hinted at as the basis of the proposal, but we were not told of any solid reasons for entertaining that apprehension. It may not be possible to define an emergency, but surely some experience of the past, some knowledge of the present must be invoked to justify the hypothesis of an emergency in the future. The experience we have of the past only serves to show that the Army maintained by India has been amply sufficient for her own purposes; the knowledge we have of the present is that India is as quiet and devoted to the

British Crown as any other portion of the Empire, and as regards any prospect of foreign aggression, it is less than it ever was. Besides, if any such emergency arose, why should not India be then allowed to draw upon the Army in other quarters of the British dominions, just as her Army has been drawn upon so often for Imperial service abroad?

To have made India pay for a portion of the garrison in South Africa, which really was provided for African purposes, would have resulted in not only imposing on her a cruel burden, but inflicting on her an indignity, by forcing her into relations for mutual help with a country which has treated her shamefully. The colonists there have torn into tatters every pledge and promise made on behalf of the British Crown to the people of India for equal justice and fair treatment within the possessions of that Crown. They have done everything they could to shake the very foundation of Imperial unity, about which we have been talking here so much. And it would be simply absurd to think of training 25,000 British soldiers for the defence of India in a time of emergency among a people so blind in their enmity to and prejudice of the people of India. As I have already stated, I need not further argue this part of my Motion as the proposal is relinquished. I thank you for receding even at this late hour from an untenable position, and rejoice at it not only because India will be relieved of the threatened burden, but because the grotesque necessity of contributing £400,000 of the money earned by the hard toil of her children, to be spent within the inhospitable shores of Africa, is averted.

That the weight of these charges would react disastrously on the financial position of India, as alleged in my Motion, is self-evident. She is not rich, and is subject to recurring famines. Millions of her agricultural, that is, the main bulk of her population, live from hand to mouth even in normal times, and in deep ignorance for want of means of education. In a speech of remarkable cogency in the course of the Budget debate in the Viceroy's Council last March, one of its most distinguished members, the Aga Khan, drew attention to "the general ignorance of the masses," and made suggestions for reducing the military expenditure without impairing the efficiency of the Army, so that the saving effected might be devoted to purposes of elementary education. These suggestions, I trust, will command the attention of the Government of India. There are numerous other subjects of national welfare demanding treatment at the hands of the Indian Administration. But if charges such as we have been criticising to-night are sprung upon that Government without their consent, and even in direct opposition to their views, their resources are crippled, and they are disabled from giving effect, to use their own words, "to their desire to alleviate the burdens of the Indian people." I trust, Sir, the debate to-night will have the salutary effect of preventing in future any such interference with the work entrusted to the Viceroy and his Council of promoting the welfare of the people committed to their charge in a sympathetic spirit, and with sole regard to the paramount interests of India. It is work of that description which will strengthen your hold upon her and earn for you the gratitude of her people, the value of which to the cause of Imperial unity, and even for the purpose of repelling a foreign foe, it might be impossible to overrate.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that every speaker in the debate looked upon the condition of Indian finance as satisfactory, and all had taken the same optimistic view as the noble Lord the Secretary of State for India. There never was, however, an occasion when the condition of India more required to be brought before the House of Commons in general debate than the present. It was an unfortunate fact that the debate had hitherto been nearly confined to a single topic. Every speaker had declared that the condition of India was satisfactory; but it was his opinion that the state of India was not as satisfactory as it was represented as being that afternoon. He would advance reasons for that opinion. The admissions of the Government with reference to the cruel nature of the salt tax were in themselves a proof that the condition of India was not as satisfactory as had been stated. "The Moral and Material Progress of India," which was issued to Parliament annually, showed that India was not in as satisfactory a condition as they could wish. This year the volume extended over a period of ten years, and was less detailed than the annual volumes. He believed that at this moment there was a native State in India which was actually bankrupt, the reason alleged for the bankruptcy being the plague and the costs incurred in connection with representation at the Coronation and at the Durbar. The fact that the inhabitants of India were reduced to a condition of plague and famine should in itself prevent them being optimistic about the state of that country. Even now the salt tax pressed more heavily than it did when he first entered the House in 1868, when Professor Fawcett was showing how much more cruel it was than any other tax in the world. He was prepared to show that this was a horrible tax on a necessary of life, which was peculiarly necessary in India. If taxation in India were to be reduced, the salt tax had the highest possible claim to be regarded as the first tax that should be chosen for reduction.

In the Indian Financial Statement for 1903–4 and Proceedings of the Legislative Council the Government of India state on page 9—

> "The salt tax is paid in the main by those who can least afford to contribute anything. We hope that a reduction will lead to such greater consumption as will not only benefit the health of the people, but will also permit of the greater use of salt with profitable results for cattle. The salt tax will provide a reserve which can be immediately made use of by once more increasing the rate should such exceptional misfortunes as war or disastrous famine suddenly create an abnormal strain."

He hoped, however, that the tax would be regarded as a tax to be steadily diminished, rather than as a tax to be suddenly raised to meet the strain of war or other abnormal expenditure.

On page 146, His Highness the Agha Khan, first speaker in the debate, is reported to have said—

> "It is almost universally hoped by the people of this country that the present reduction of the salt tax is the beginning of a series of annual reductions. This tax presses with undue severity on the poorest, while it practically does not affect the rich."

On page 177, the Hon. Rai Bahadur Ananda Charlu is reported to have said—

> "Relief does not come up to your Excellency's ideal that the reduction must be on a sufficient scale to relieve the people on whom it pressed with the greatest weight. . . . A meal with a stinted supply of salt is a loaf without leaven."

On page 178 is the Government's admission—

> "That the tax is paid mainly by those who can least afford to contribute anything."

Sir Edward Law, Finance Minister, said—

> "Honourable Rai Bahadur Ananda Charlu! I am inclined to think that there is something to be said in favour of the idea of the reduction of the salt tax by an amount which could be readily calculated. But that would have entailed an addition to the loss of revenue. This addition the Government of India was not prepared to accept."

He hoped, however, that the words of the noble Lord that afternoon would convey satisfaction to the people of India; and that the House would press on the Government that the first tax to be reduced should be the salt tax. As to the question whether it was possible to effect economies in India, and to place the revenues of that country in a better position, in order that such a cruel tax as the salt tax might be further reduced, he thought that the £7 10s. which the Government of India had to pay for every trained recruit was excessive, and ought to be revised; and he was convinced that, if it were submitted for arbitration to the Lord Chief Justice, relief might be had in that direction.

The noble Lord said that the Army in India, although small, ought to be efficient; but that often meant that in India, a poor country, military establishments were kept up on a scale which would not be applied in England, rich though it was. Four great military factories were being built in India; and, whereas, in this country they would be paid out of a military loan, they were in India paid out of revenue. Further, he had never been able to think that the expenditure on the ecclesiastical establishment in India for the small white minority could be defended. That expenditure, as far as it went beyond chaplains and a Chaplain-General, was indefensible. He doubted, also, whether there was any reason for keeping up the Governments of Madras and Bombay with all their palaces, in contrast to the Governments of other provinces. On the other hand, the Government of India admitted that the police system was very inefficient, and needed money There was the demand which had in the past been made for additional expenditure on police, which would continue to be an enlarged demand. Then, there was an additional reason for economy in the fact that further military charges of various kinds were inevitable, even if the Indian Army were not to be increased. Moreover, that increase would certainly come on the Indian Government, they were told, a fact which must prevent this country from ever dreaming that the financial condition of India would be satisfactory in the time to come. Those Members who had opposed the proposed charge on India for 12,500 men stationed in South Africa had been jubilant at the unlamented death—unlamented except by the noble Lord the Secretary of State—of that scheme; but they could not shut their eyes to the fact that the noble Lord had pointed plainly to an increase in the number of the white troops in India. Before we, or the Government of India, or the people of India, were committed to this increase of the white forces which was evidently comtemplated, there ought to be some statement in Parliament. The reasons for this increase had only been glanced at by the noble Lord in as vague and sketchy manner as they had been dealt with in the statement of the Prime Minister, when he dealt with them for a different purpose. What we were asked to do was to prepare for immediate use in India a vastly greater force than was thought necessary a few years ago. It was not a question of reinforcing our Indian dominions slowly in the event of war, but of meeting a sudden necessity. That was the argument. Before such a proposition could be assented to, it must be shown that there was some probability that from the existing frontier of Russia there would be such a sudden attack as could necessitate these immediate reinforcements. The plan of increasing the white forces in India would shift and alter the difficulties with which the Secretary for War had to cope, but it would not get rid of them. With regard to the proposal for the increase of pay; the Government of India had already used some strong language on that point in a Paper before Parliament in which they said—

> "We deprecate the effect that will be produced in this country by an increase of the military charges for the British Army in India, which the Government of India has not asked for, and does not approve."

Sir Charles Dilke.

He had never denied, and Lord Ripon had never denied for himself, that, under the system which had hitherto prevailed, it was only fair that India should pay the whole of the soldier's pay, but a different point arose now as to whether the present military system which we imposed on India was the best system, and whether the term of service we imposed on India was the term which was most suitable for that country. Lord Roberts, not very long before, in his evidence before the Military Expenditure Commission, said the term of service we had imposed on India was imposed for our own purposes—it was a compromise, and not a term of service we should have imposed on ourselves, and he pointed out this was eminently a subject upon which the Indian Government ought to be consulted. It was a most serious want of tact that immediately after the shock about the pay had been given to the people of India this South African charge should be proposed. We ought to have some imagination, and see how this matter struck people in India. We applied as against India very rigid principles, but we did not make other portions of the Empire pay any charge under similar conditions. The Straits, Hong-Kong and Ceylon made no contribution towards the increased pay. The peculiar cruelty of the South Africa proposal, now happily abandoned, was that it made India pay for troops kept in colonies where her subjects were dishonoured.

As to the position of British-Indian subjects in South Africa, he did not think any blame could justly be attached to the Secretary of State for the treatment of the Indian people in South Africa. If he could have improved it he would have done so, and they desired to strengthen his hands in this matter. The state of things in South Africa was undoubtedly deplorable; it was almost horrible to all who had at heart the interests of the Empire in all its parts. At the South African Customs Union Conference a resolution was moved by a Government official to the effect that "South Africa is essentially a white man's country," but although it was "a white man's country," it was in the position of wanting black or Indian labour, and the conference proceeded to lay down principles to be applied to Asiatic immigration. Another resolution, also moved by a Government official, declared the conference to be of opinion,

> "That the permanent settlement in South Africa of Asiatic races would be injurious, and should not be permitted."

and then went on to ask for that which the Indian Government had very properly refused, viz., that Indian labour should be allowed to come in on conditions which permanently degraded Indian labour as a whole, and the position of British-Indian subjects in the Empire Lord Milner had declared that the Government had no option but to carry out the existing law. He should have thought the Government had full option, as they had repealed many of the laws and varied others—such as that relating to Kaffir labour—but later on in the same despatch—a forwarding despatch from the Governor of the Transvaal respecting the position of British-Indians,—Lord Milner stated:

> "The laws of the late Republic, contrary very often to British ideas, must nevertheless be enforced until they can be replaced. The law to which I have just referred was at the time of its passing and for a number of years subsequently the subject of controversy between the Government of the late Republic and His Majesty's Government."

The Governments of both the Dutch Republics were repeatedly pressed, first, not to make these laws, and, secondly, not to enforce them; and they responded to our pressure.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE said the law was alleged to be a cause of the war.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that was so. Minister after Minister put forward the harshness of the laws and the actual treatment of the Indians as being a cause of the war, although it was notorious that by our pressure we had prevented the enforcement of the laws. Lord Milner had declared that the policy of the Government was not directed against colour, but the House should look at the action of the Government, and support the Secretary of State for India in his protests against the treatment of Indians which was not merely mob action, but was backed by responsible officials of the Government. In the South African Republic, under a law which was not enforced, as the Asiatic Department did not share the prejudice which had forced the law upon them, there were locations, and when notice was given to the British-Indians to go into these locations, the British agent was instructed to protest. Our Vice-Consul supported the resistance to the order, and the State Secretary of the Transvaal gave an assurance that it was not intended to enforce the law. That was one of the very laws which Lord Milner now said he had no alternative but to enforce. The few Indians already licensed were not allowed to transfer their licences, so that they were unable to sell their business, even if they wished to leave the Transvaal. In the Orange Free State the law was different. There a special poll-tax was levied on Indians, and they could only reside there by permission. Many of the laws of that State had been altered since British rule was established, while this law had not only not been altered, but was being enforced far more harshly than before. The House could strengthen the hands of the Secretary of State in acting on the principle, so powerfully declared by the Government themselves at the commencement of the war, and they could unite in deploring the miserable want of tact by which it was proposed specially to tax the people of India for the maintenance of a white force in the very country in which they received the treatment which had been so powerfully described.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The right hon. Gentleman has made so vehement an attack upon the proposal in regard to the reinforcement of the Indian Army, that I would crave the indulgence of the House for a few moments in order to make perfectly clear what is the reason why that proposal was made, and how little ground there is for the indignation the right hon. Gentleman has expressed. My noble friend said at the commencement of this debate that for ten years past it had been an admitted fact, that in certain contingencies the Indian Army would require substantial reinforcement. In that speech my noble friend was well within the mark. He might have gone further back, and said the same with justice. But it was impossible that any Government, urged by this House, as the present Government has been, to survey the whole of the needs of the

Empire by means of the Defence Committee, and to see how, in case of attack, the different portions of the Empire should be defended—it was impossible for any Government, after reading Report after Report of Committees of Indian statesmen and strategists, to come to the conclusion that they could entirely ignore the demands pressed upon them. The right hon. Gentleman made a somewhat slight attempt to establish a divergence of opinion between the First Lord of the Treasury and my noble friend with regard to the question of stationing troops in South Africa. The First Lord of the Treasury urged, earlier in the session, that the maintenance of a large Army for foreign service must specially be considered in relation to the Indian frontier. The right hon. Gentleman and others urged that in case of war there would be a difficulty of conveying such troops to India. It is obvious that a state of things might arise on the frontier when troops might be sent from these shores and no European force which could possibly interfere with their convoy would be arrayed against us. On the other hand, it is equally possible that at the moment when we required to send troops to India we might, unfortunately, have against us another European Power who would be in a position to prevent such convoy, and it is with regard to that contingency, on which the whole maritime arrangements are based, that the House, without a dissentient voice, has, time after time, voted large sums for the increase of the Fleet. It is on that contingency that we have considered, and, I think, rightly considered, how we can reinforce India with the men—not whom the War Office desired to send, but whom the Indian experts themselves demand. It has been decided that in case of an emergency in India, it would be highly desirable to have troops that would only require to be conveyed from South Africa instead of from this country. The proposal was not made for the needs of the War Office, but entirely for the convenience of the Indian Government. If the recommendations of these Committees were to be considered at all, there are only two ways by which effect can be given to them—either a considerable increase must be made to the permanent garrison of India, which means a still greater strain on this country, a still larger number of men kept in a tropical climate, and a very heavy charge, which it is impossible to place on the taxpayers of India, or we must discover some means by which a rapid reinforcement of India can be effected at less charge. That reinforcement could have been obtained from South Africa had the Indian Government been willing to entertain our proposals. These proposals are made in good faith, not for the benefit of the War Office, but solely for the benefit, and in the interests, of the Indian Government.

Many hard words have been used in regard to those proposals in the Indian Press, and in regard to myself personally. Now, these decisions, if they were War Office decisions, would have been made—by whom? By officers, from Lord Roberts downwards, nearly all of whom have spent the major portion of their lives in India! That in itself was a guarantee that Indian interests would be considered. One word with regard to the relations of the War Office and the Indian Army. Statements have been made as if the War Office kept a shop of soldiers and pressed them upon an unwilling customer, India, at a high figure. That is absolutely the reverse of the position. I believe that the closer our dependencies and the mother country are knit together, in regard to their defensive forces, the better. If I spoke, not as a member of the British Cabinet and of this Parliament, but simply as the representative of the War Office, I can honestly say that it would be more to our advantage that India should have a separate army. That would ease many of our difficulties, it would immensely cheapen our Estimates, and it would at once, and for all, relieve us from those fluctuating demands which we cannot control, but which the Indian Government make upon us. I go further. If the Indian Army is to be increased, and if you could draw a distinction between British policy and Indian policy, the increase is not due to trouble forced upon India by our Imperial position, but is due to the actual needs of India itself, and the policy pursued in her behalf by her rulers. I am not criticising or complaining of that policy; but, nevertheless, the fact remains that it is not our difficulties in Europe which cause the increase of Indian armaments. It is the need of her own protection which make it necessary for India to make further demands on the War Office.

I hope I have not gone beyond what I should have said in giving this explanation. The hon. Member opposite took exception not merely to the measure by which we recently proposed to give India 12,500 men upon an emergency at one-third of the cost for which they could otherwise be obtained, but also to the increase of pay to the Army made a short time ago, of which India had to pay her share. As regards the increase of pay, I would say that it was made mainly in order that the Indian Army should be maintained at full strength. If we could have continued to obtain our necessary drafts for foreign service without an increase of pay, I do not think this House would ever have voted the money. We should have had no difficulty whatever in raising the number of men required to serve in this country, and for the moderate amount of service abroad in our colonies. I have been frequently attacked in this House and criticised because a regiment we had at Aldershot a few years ago had been ravaged in order to supply the Indian drafts so that the Indian Army should be kept up to its proper strength. It is for India that we keep up a Reserve which will shortly number 100,000 men, and to which India has not been asked to contribute a single farthing. While, therefore, I fully appreciate the arguments of those who desire to save the Indian taxpayer from undue exactions, it should not be represented that the present demands are due to any desire on the part of any member of this Government to increase those exactions. They have been the deliberate requirements of the Indian experts on the one hand, and the efforts of the British Government to supply those demands on the other. I respectfully ask attention to these considerations, fully realising what the effect of such debates must be on our Indian fellow-subjects, and desiring, at all events, that a fair and unvarnished account, of what has been to us a distasteful demand, should go forth from this country to the people of India.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) said he desired to thank the Secretary of State for India for the references he made to the late Mr. W. S. Caine and for the generous tribute be paid to the character of his work in this House. That tribute was all the more valuable because the deceased gentleman was opposed to the noble Lord in politics.

And it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [13th August], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair (for Committee on East India Revenue Accounts)."

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS, continuing his speech, said many people, having regard to the taxation of India, believed that a point had been reached, beyond which it was difficult to go without doing great injury. He submitted that before any addition was made to the expenditure of India, it should be on a scheme which had the unanimous support of the Cabinet which suggested it. Was there any proof that there was a unanimous opinion on the part of the Government that the £786,000, which was now proposed to be added, should be added to the expenditure of India? There had been an almost continual growth of military expenditure during the last twenty-five or thirty years. In 1860, the military expenditure was under £10,000,000, in 1872 it was £12,000,000, in 1892 it was £15,000,000, and in 1903 £17,784,000, and the situation became all the more serious when it was tested in relation to the net revenue of the country. £17,784,000 was rather more than 40 per cent. of the net revenue, which was a very high expenditure, having regard to all the circumstances of the country, yet it was now proposed to add to that £786,000 per annum. The noble Lord had stated that we could not expect the net revenue of India in the future to increase beyond 2½ per cent., which would amount to £1,000,000, so that it might be said that the revenue of the country was already mortgaged for the burden placed on the revenue of India by the increased pay of the soldiers. But it was important to remember in discussing the question of taxation the extreme poverty of the people. A million of people in India only yielded one-sixtieth of what the people of this country yielded in regard to income tax, and when they considered the small incomes enjoyed by 250,000,000 of people in India, the small margin they had to spare for any increase of taxation must be of vital consequence to them. The Indian Government had protested against this increase. Whose project was it to have these troops in South Africa, and what reason could be advanced in favour of such a scheme being of advantage to India? The Secretary of State had more than once stated that India demanded it. India, on the other hand, had protested against it.

With regard to the financial statement of the Government of India, he could not help noticing with regret the steady increase under the head of land revenue. Under the present conditions of India he could not believe that that was paid without great injury to the country, and he would like to ask whether the Government of India had made any inquiry into the land assessment of India, and whether it was intended to take any steps for the adequate assessment of the land. The noble Lord had emphasised the fact that in future we must look to the yield from the land, and pointed out that the bulk of the population was engaged in agriculture. He believed that although the bulk of the people were so engaged, it was hopeless to suppose the Government would get much revenue from the land. He was glad to hear that the Excise revenue was less than it had been, and he would be glad to know whether the Government had inquired into the complaint which had been made as to the scandals which had occurred with regard to the Excise. The revenue from the railways could not be regarded as satisfactory when compared with the revenue of similar undertakings in other countries, and he was glad to know that the Report which had been made with regard to this subject had recommended drastic changes in the railway system. The Report was most useful, not only for the information it contained, but also because it showed the necessity of reviewing and revising, from time to time, this branch of our administration in India. In conclusion, he had only to say that he believed that everything in regard to the future of India depended on the attitude of the House of Commons. They were always deploring the listlessness that was shown in this country on the question of India, and until they could infuse a new sense of their responsibility into the people of this country, he did not believe they would ever fully discharge their duties to the people of India.

*SIR WILLIAM RATTIGAN (Lanarkshire, N.E.) said he desired in the first place to congratulate the Secretary of State for India on the very interesting and able speech he had delivered that day. The statement was eminently satisfactory in more senses than one. It was peculiarly agreeable to all Members of the House to hear the announcement that was made with respect to the reduction of the salt tax and the raising of the minimum taxable limit of incomes subject to income tax. In both these directions the Government had correctly interpreted popular feeling. There were many points in his noble friend's speech to which he had intended to refer, but having regard to the lateness of the hour and to the fact that many other Members wished to address the House, he (Sir William) would confine his remarks on this occasion to the particular Motion of which he had given notice. He desired to call attention to the constitution of the Supreme Courts of Judicature in two of the most important provinces of India, namely, the Punjab and Burmah. Although, in point of jurisdiction and in regard to the functions they exercised, the Judges of these Courts were in the same position as Judges holding similar positions in other provinces, they were, with respect to *status*, salaries and pensions, in a vastly inferior position. For instance, in the High Courts the Chief Justice drew a salary of 5,000 rupees per month, but the presiding Judges in the Chief Courts of the Punjab and Burmah were only entitled to receive a maximum of 4,000 rupees and they had to serve fourteen years before they were entitled to a pension. The Judges of the High Court were entitled to a pension at the end of twelve years. It was surely anomalous that the Judges of one class of superior Courts should be treated as occupying an inferior position as compared with those of the High Courts. He asked the noble Lord whether the honour, dignity, and prestige of the Courts in the Punjab and Burmah were likely to be maintained if these differences were allowed to exist. He had no hesitation in saying that the state of things was not only anomalous, but that it was a scandal. He asked the Secretary of State to see if he could not put these Courts on the same constitutional level as the High Courts. He believed that the extra cost would not be more than 3,000 rupees per month for each of these Courts. That surely was a trifle, when they considered the satisfaction which would be given to the people of the provinces by the elevation of their Courts to the position they were entitled to have. At present there was the feeling that these Courts were badly treated, and that was not calculated to enhance the respect that was due to them. There could be no real reason for refusing to improve their position, and he strongly appealed to his noble friend to do so.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said he welcomed the statement of the noble Lord the Secretary for India that the proposal that India should pay part of the charge of the maintenance of British troops in South Africa, had been abandoned. He should like to ascertain from the noble Lord what was now the exact position of the Government with regard to the maintenance of the British force in South Africa. So far as he could gather at Question time to-day, it appeared that the establishment of 25,000 troops in South Africa was dependent upon the consent of the Indian Government to defray part of the charge. They had now learned that the Indian Government was not to defray part of that charge. What he wanted to know was whether in future there were to be 25,000 men in South Africa as a permanent establishment. He should like to know also what was to be the expenditure on that force, because, within the past fortnight, the House, in the Military Works Bill, had sanctioned an initial expense of £2,300,000 for barracks in South Africa, the calculation being that they had to provide accommodation for 25,000 men. Surely the House ought to be informed what was to be the limit of expenditure, and whether steps would be taken at the earliest possible moment to put some restriction on the spending of this money. He not only welcomed the statement of the noble Lord, but he welcomed also the grounds on which the statement was made. He gathered from it that the proposal that India should defray part of the charge for the British force in South Africa was abandoned because of the strong representations of the Government of India. He had always been of opinion that it was the duty of this House to support the Government of India fully in its independence with regard to politics, administration, and finance. It was because he was strongly in favour of supporting the Government of India as the responsible authority for finance and administration that he was unable to support the Motion, made earlier in the evening by the hon. Member for the Clitheroe Division, with regard to the repeal of the cotton duties. He was equally strongly of opinion that it was their duty to support the Government of India in resisting Departmental pressure, and he gathered from the statement of the noble Lord, that that was practically what had occurred—that the Government of India had taken a firm line in resisting the expenditure proposed to be placed upon India.

* LORD GEORGE HAMILTON dissented.

MR. BUCHANAN said that, in any case, he welcomed the announcement because Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener had taken a firm and independent line upon this proposal of the Home Government. They were the people after all who were in every way responsible for the Government of India and for the administration of its finances. The noble Lord had told them, practically, that he was unable formally to consult the Government of India on this subject in its initial stages lest the matter should become public. Surely the moral to be drawn from this was, that when proposals of this sort were going to be made which involved a considerable charge upon the finances of India the Government should ascertain in advance, before the public was informed of them, what were the reasoned and settled views, not only of the Secretary of State here, but also of the Government of India.

*Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I made that observation in connection with the increase of pay.

Mr. BUCHANAN said his memory might be at fault, but he was not complaining of the conduct of the noble Lord with regard to the question. He thought the conclusion which the House would draw from the incidents coming under their notice was that it was all important in future, when there was a probability of charges of this sort being put on the revenues of India, that the views of the Government of India should be ascertained beforehand in order that they might not have what they had seen this afternoon, namely, the statement that owing to strong representations made by the Government of India to the Government at home, proposals which had been put before the House and the country had been abandoned. That was a matter for regret. He said so not merely because of any Party consideration, but because it was a matter to be deprecated that proposals of this sort should become public property in India and excite the feelings that had been expressed there. That was disastrous not only for the Government here but for the stability of our system of government in India. This question of India being asked to pay a portion of the charge for British troops in South Africa was part of a wider subject that had often come before this House for consideration, the apportionment of the charge between India and the United Kingdom for services in which both were interested. He served on the Commission on Indian Expenditure under the chairmanship of Lord Welby. That Commission thoroughly examined this question for a considerable period of years.

The noble Lord, in referring not to the South African question but to the question of pay, had deprecated the view the Government of India had put forward that it might fairly be proposed that this increase might be halved between the Home Government and the Indian Government. He understood the noble Lord to say that the Government of India must accept the conditions under which the solidarity of the Indian and the Home Armies at present existed. To that he would make a demurrer. On equitable considerations he thought he might fairly bring in the noble Lord himself as a witness, because, although he declined to support the Government of India in that, he proposed a division of the capitation charges. Surely if it was a right principle to apply in one set of charges it must also apply to the other set of charges. Although they must accept the decision come to nearly thirty years ago in regard to the amalgamation of the British force in India with the British Army as a whole, when changes in the conditions of service were made, and new charges of such a substantial character as those involved in the increase of pay were introduced, equitable considerations should come into play. He thought that considerations of equity ought to come into play. No one could say that India did not discharge fully, and more than fully, all her duties in connection with Imperial defence. She paid the whole cost of the Indian Navy; she paid the whole cost of the 75,000 white troops; she housed them and maintained all the barracks. We spent millions of money in building barracks, not merely at home but in every other part of the British Empire, but India paid for all the barracks in that country. And when any alteration was made in our armaments—in artillery or small arms—India was bound to pay all the charges. He found from the Indian Statement that one of the chief increases last year was on armaments. Then she paid millions for coast defence. He was not complaining of that; he thought it was perfectly justifiable that India should pay the full charges for every soldier within her bounds. India had to pay her quota, amounting to something like £2,000,000 for the increased soldiers' pay; she had to deal with the War Office as a contractor possessing a monopoly. The Indian Government had to pay £7 10s. per head for every recruit who went to

India. That had been a subject of contention between the Indian Government and the War Office.

MR. BRODRICK said that nobody would be more glad than he if India provided her own Army.

MR BUCHANAN said he was glad that the right hon. Gentleman had made that statement which was practically the same as he had made the previous day at Pepper Harro Park. He was surprised that that statement came from a War Office official. It had been urged, on the grounds of economy, that there should be a separate Army for India, because it was said that India could recruit her Army much more cheaply in this country than the War Office did at the present moment. But the right hon. Gentleman should not put forward a statement like that either in this House or in the country when he must know that it was outside the bounds of possibility that the proposals of the Indian Government would be accepted by the home authorities. Then India was called upon to pay an extra charge which was practically a grant-in-aid of the troops in South Africa. He was glad that that demand had been abandoned, he hoped never to be repeated. For his part he thought that India had more than amply discharged, to the very fullest extent, any claim that could be put upon her on the grounds of Imperial Defence. He had been surprised to see that the First Lord of the Admiralty had described the contribution of India towards the Navy as exiguous. India policed her own seas, she policed the Pe sian Gulf, she paid for her coast defence, she built dockyards at Bombay, and made an allowance for coaling. It was, therefore, unworthy for a responsible Minister of the Crown to say that India was exiguous when she made a contribution of £100,000 per annum. On the Report of the Welby Commission, the Government had agreed to a remission of £250,000 of the charges on India on equitable grounds, but they had imposed an addition of something like £1,250,000. That was, he considered, most unfair He strongly urged on the noble Lord, as representing the interest of this Government and of India, that an attempt should be made to reconsider anew the whole question of the charges between India and Great Britain.

*SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Centra) said that nothing could be more satisfactory than that the Secretary of State for War and the Secretary of State for India were determined to make the condition of the Army in India as efficient as possible. Whatever view might be taken it was impossible to deny that a great change had come over the state of affairs in Central Asia in the last ten or fifteen years. The Russian forces in Central Asia were becoming stronger and more numerous every day, and the most ordinary prudence demanded that nothing should be omitted to render the Indian forces fit for war if occasion arose. There was one matter in which India should excel, and that was the matter of mounted men. The cavalry of the Indian Army was one of the most efficient arms of that Army. It was very cheap. The cost was only about £25 a year for every man. Every man found his own horse, his equipment, food, forage, and transport, and he believed that in the extension of the Indian cavalry a very great addition to the military forces of India might be obtained. That was the view shared by some of the most experienced officers connected with the Indian Army, and by none more strongly than by General Sir Bindon Blood. There was another matter of importance in regard to the Indian cavalry. The fighting force of India was a mounted force. The price of horses in India had lately increased very much indeed. There was a great demand for horses, and the market, which had formerly been well stocked, was now assailed from many quarters. He hoped the Secretary of State would give the officers of Indian cavalry the same privileges as regards their chargers as had been given to the officers of British cavalry regiments. As to the assistance given to the Volunteer force in India, considering the very small numbers, comparatively speaking, of the European population in India, every adult male between eighteen and fifty should certainly be required—as the Netherlands Government required in Netherlands India—to serve in the Volunteer force That was done now as regards many of the principal railways in India. The assistance given to the Volunteer force had been described by many members of the Indian Government, and by none more strongly than Sir Edwin Collen, as exceedingly inadequate. Sir Edwin Collen, who was the Government's representative on the Viceroy's Council, had written only the other day expressing a very strong opinion as to the absolute necessity of rendering more assistance to the Volunteer force in India. The Volunteer force was now 30,000 strong, but many of the regiments were exceedingly under-officered. The Secretary of State had not referred to the frontier policy inaugurated by Lord Curzon The frontier Militia, officered by British officers, had been very successful.

The House would have read with interest the statement that Lord Kitchener was going to visit every part of the frontier. It had been said that Lord Kitchener was thrown away in India, and that he ought to be at home, but it was perfectly certain that he had a very great work to do in modernising and improving the efficiency of the British and native armies in India. In this connection he asked why British Infantry battalions were only 850 strong instead of 1,000, and native infantry regiments only 750 instead of 1,000. Everybody knew that the casualties in tropical countries were very numerous, and so a regiment was often able only to turn out 500 or 600 men on parade. The consequence of this reduced strength was that brigades consisted of only 1,300 or 1,400 instead of 2,500 or 3,000, as in Germany. As regards the railways, he thought it most important that a uniform gauge should be established on the railway between Bombay and the North-West Frontier. It would not be wise that troops on their way from the port of debarkation to the scene of action should have to be taken out of one train and put into another because of the difference in the gauge. Uniformity of gauge was one of the chief essentials in the preparation for mobilisation, and there should be such uniformity throughout the whole of India.

A very able Report recently presented to the Secretary of State by Mr. Francis Drake showed that there was a very marked decline in the proportion of British trade with India during the last ten years. In those years the trade of Germany and the United States with India had more than doubled. We were going back instead of going forward. With regard to the industries of Sheffield, it was stated in the official Report, to which he referred, that there was a marked decline in that portion belonging to the United Kingdom, and that a large quantity of iron and steel came from Belgium, which supplied them with inferior quality and at a cheaper rate than the goods imported from Great Britain. This was a serious state of affairs. The imports of steel into India from England had gone back some 20 per cent. in the last ten years, while imports of steel from Belgium had increased in almost like ratio, and the imports of iron and steel from Germany had increased to equal extent. This was also the case with regard to hardware and cutlery. The very cheap goods made on the Continent found a ready and easy market in the bazaars of India. He would not complain of this if they were sold as German or Belgian goods, but in the bazaars of India—as he had himself seen—they were constantly marked with indications professing that they were of British origin. He had no doubt the Customs authorities did their best to enforce the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, passed in India in 1889 ; and there were numerous detentions for false marking—more particularly false marking of origin—and he urged the Secretary of State to do what he possibly could to induce the authorities to exercise the utmost vigilance in this matter, because it was unquestionable that an enormous amount of goods were at present palmed off on the people of India as British, whereas they were of very inferior Continental origin. That was a fraud on the people of India, and it was a still worse fraud on the manufacturers and operatives of this country, because the goods obtained a bad reputation, and the man who bought an inferior knife with a Sheffield mark upon it, and who found it absolutely useless, entertained an idea of the goods of Sheffield which affected very much the sale of hardware and cutlery in one of our best markets. He would suggest that the Secretary of State for India should do everything he could to encourage the cultivation of raw materials in India for the British market. It would be an advantage to the mutual trade of Great Britain and India if the area of land under wheat in India, now 23,000,000 acres out of a cropped area of 200,000,000 acres, could be increased, and experiments could be made to improve the production of cotton, now 15,000,000 acres, and the staple of cotton, so as to make it suitable for the mills of Lancashire.

THE MASTER OF ELIBANK (Edinburgh, Midlothian) asked for information as to the continuance of the subsidy hitherto paid to the Ameer of Afghanistan.

LIEUT.-COLONEL GEORGE KEMP said he had heard with pleasure that it was probable the proposed expenditure of £400,000 by India for troops in South Africa would not be incurred. The Secretary for India had stated, however, that in view of the Russian position it was necessary either that the Indian Army should be increased or that these troops should be stationed in South Africa. He (Colonel Kemp) agreed with the Motion placed on the Paper earlier in the session by Mr. Beckett, that 27,000 men should be put in South Africa for the purposes of India. It might seem, therefore, a curious position that he should go down to the House and oppose this expenditure of £400,000 for the 25,000 men who were ostensibly for India, and for whom India would have to pay. What he wished to point out to the House was, that if this plan was not absolutely given up, these men for whom India would pay would not be available for India in case of emergency. They knew from the Secretary of State for War that the men whom it was proposed to station in South Africa would not be seven years men, but three years men. Three-quarters of the recruits who enlisted in England were eighteen years of age, or under, and these men would not be allowed to go to India in time of peace, because they were under twenty. But in case of emergency they would be sent to India, although under age. But in that case India would be asked to pay for men, to be sent there in time of war, who were physically unfit, and who were not allowed to go there in time of peace. He thought it would be the gravest misfortune if this plan was adhered to, for the people of India would be deceived. As to the increased expenditure which India would incur for the extra pay of the soldiers, were they to understand that India was to acquiesce in every call which might be made for Imperial purposes without any direct benefit to herself, and that by whatever number we might increase the Imperial Army, and to whatever extent the market price of the soldiers might go up, India would always be obliged to pay that extra price for her soldiers? We ought to exercise a little imagination, put ourselves in the position of the people of India, and try to conceive what they thought of such an arrangement as this. They knew from the statement of the Viceroy that he was satisfied with the troops he had had, and with the existing system of pay and recruiting, and the people would say that the Viceroy and the Government were satisfied, and yet year by year the Imperial Army went on increasing, and the market price was put up, and they had to pay more and more for the same number and quality of troops as before. That would appear manifestly unjust to the people of India, It not only affected the people of India, but the people of England. Keen supervision should be taken that India should pay only a just amount towards the expenditure of her Army. They ought to ask, with regard to India, that the amount paid should not be only according to the letter of the law, but that some regard should be had to equity. They knew the Viceroy had distinctly stated that not only in his opinion was the proportion of expenditure increased for India, as against England, but that the result would be that the efficiency of the Indian Army would be curtailed. That was a very serious matter.

*LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: What Lord Curzon said was that it would curtail the income for other purposes.

LIEUT.-COLONEL GEORGE KEMP thought if the noble Lord would look at the Paper presented to the House he would find Lord Curzon also said it would re-act on the efficiency of the Indian Army. They ought to be just to India now. They were asking her to pay more than she ought to pay, but he had a broader and graver reason for feeling that this expenditure ought not to be sanctioned. If they asked India to pay what she felt to be unjust and had not the chance of giving her voice upon—if India was to pay for those large Army schemes of this country—he feared seeds of discontent would be sown which would spring up afterwards and be in the future a grave element of danger to the very existence of the Empire itself.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University) observed that within the last two or three years there had been a marked and almost alarming increase in the cases of plague in India, not only in their number but also in their severity. He was aware that certain persons attributed that increase to the misdirected recommendations of the Plague Committee, but on that point he offered no opinion. The great increase was not only of grave importance to India; it constituted a danger to the whole world, and he urged the noble Lord to seriously consider what measures could be taken to lessen the number of cases. India was essentially a pathological country. Cholera had its home there; smallpox was supposed to have originated there; and in any case the problems of disease were more complicated, and required investigation in a greater degree even than in the mother country. It was of the utmost importance not only to the white population, but also to the whole population, that the medical service of India should be of the highest character, and that the brightest intellects of Europe should be attracted to that wonderful field of medical inquiry. But there was considerable dissatisfaction in the medical service both military and civil. He had inquired among his young friends—one learned a great deal from his young friends—and when he spoke to them of the great future before them in India they said in their familiar language, "It is not good enough." The noble Lord had received a report, sanctioned by no less a body than the British Medical Association, detailing certain wants in the Indian Medical Service, both military and civil. One of the complaints was that whereas in the Royal Army Medical Corps the pay had been increased because of the increase of medical education and the cost thereof, there had been no corresponding increase in the pay of the Indian Medical Service, either military or civil. He felt some difficulty about pressing this case because it involved an increased expenditure, but he ventured to think that the increased expenditure would be simply money better invested.

He had no such hesitation with regard to other grievances which were prominent in the service, none of which would involve an increased expenditure. One of them was with regard to the private practice of members of the Civil Medical Service. Very wisely members of that service were permitted to engage in private practice; that was very good for them and for the service because a great deal of their work as Civil officers was of a routine character. Prior to some ten years ago there were no restraints upon that practice, but certain regulations were then put in force which he could only describe as galling to the medical profession, for when a member of the Civil Medical Service was invited to apply his European skill and last results of science to a native nobleman, not only was there a tariff of the fees to be charged, but the tariff in each particular case was laid before a lay officer of the civil or political service who was often of inferior rank to the medical officer. In many cases the medical officer, who was known as a Doctor-Colonel, had to apply to a lieutenant or a captain for power to charge such-and-such a fee for treating the native gentlemen or babus, and he had to lay his charges for a difficult kind of investigation or a special remedy before an officer who knew nothing about such matters. He was aware that the noble Lord would say that this was necessary in order to protect the native, but surely if it were thought that an European was going to charge an exorbitant fee it would be quite possible for the Government to step in and say that he should not. The profession did not like this proceedure at all, and he believed it was preventing bright young men from joining the service. Gentlemen with medical status had no seat on the

Viceroy's Council. How were they to carry out proper sanitary measures unless the head of sanitary science had a seat on the Council. Other Departments were there represented—why was not the medical department? To remedy these three things, the most important being the latter, would not lead to any increase of expenditure, but it would remove a very notable bar to the recruiting of the bright intellects for service in India, for the benefit of the population of that great Empire. He earnestly hoped the noble Lord would take these matters into his considerion.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said the Government seemed to have had only three alternatives in their mind in regard to the increased military charges on India—either that the number of troops available should remain unchanged, or that a large number should be maintained in South Africa partly at the cost of India, or that the garrison actually in India should be increased. The first two having been rejected, they now threatened the adoption of the third. This would involve too heavy a burden. But surely there were other alternatives. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had suggested the recruitment of a special Army for service in India. Without discussing so radical a change as that, he would venture to suggest that there was a fifth course open, that a larger force should be kept in South Africa for service in India if necessary, but that the charge should not be placed on the Indian revenue. He would not be prepared to argue against the maintenance of a considerable force in South Africa for service in India, but there was absolutely no reason why India should be asked to pay any part of the maintenance of troops stationed 5,300 miles from her shores. The whole military forces of the Empire had always been regarded as a reserve at the disposal of any part of the Empire, and there was no more reason why India should be called upon to pay part of the increased charges for the maintenance of troops in South Africa than that she should be called upon to share in their maintenance at Aldershot or Salisbury Plain. The fact that South Africa was a more convenient strategic centre was no reason for requiring that India should pay the cost of maintaining troops there instead of in England. India in times of crisis had frequently been called upon to send a large force to different parts of the Empire. She sent 9,000 men who saved Ladysmith; she sent 16,000 men who helped to save the Pekin Legations; reserves from India saved the British administrators in Uganda at the time of the Soudanese Mutiny She had helped us in Somaliland and in Egypt. Her forces had always been looked upon as a reserve for the Empire; yet it had never been suggested that England should pay the cost of maintaining troops in India. The error proposed to be committed was of a piece with that which was committed when the Indian princes were entertained at the Coronation, and it was proposed to send in the bill to India. [Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: No.] Perhaps the noble Lord would explain in his reply. The unanimity with which the latest proposal of the Government had been condemned in India was remarkable. He was delighted it had been abandoned, and was only fearful that it might be revived, and that thereby the confidence of the Indian people in British justice would be shaken.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton) said he rose to ask the Government to have the courage of their expenditure. It seemed to him the Government had run up a heavy bill for military expenditure and were endeavouring to palm off a considerable portion of the cost upon the poor people of India. The Government seemed to be frightened at the cost of their own military preparations. In his opinion the Government of India had been treated very scurvily by the War Office authorities in charging them with £786,000 a year without allowing them any voice in the allocation of the money, and in absolute defiance of the wishes of the Indian Government. It seemed to him not to be right for the home Government to engage in great schemes of Army reform unless they were prepared to pay for them. The Indian Government, in an admirable despatch in which they objected to this expenditure, stated that the change in the Army scheme at home was introduced, not so much to meet Indian needs as Imperial needs, and its effect upon the military and financial situation in India would be extremely serious. To his mind, despite the authority of the Lord Chief Justice, the pleas of the Indian Government were quite unanswerable. The reference of the matter to the Lord Chief Justice seemed to him to be dragging this Imperial question to the level of a divorce case. The last proposal, which he was glad to see had been dropped, was the most monstrous of all. After all, these reserves at home on which the Secretary for War had laid so much stress would not be available for India unless we had command of the sea. It seemed to him that the War Office had started its great scheme of Army organisation without any reference at all to the action of the Navy. Nothing could be more ridiculous than to overlook that point. The Secretary for India rather cavilled at the remark of one of the hon. Members for Lancashire that the Viceroy had declared that this additional charge of £786,000 would hamper his policy without securing increased efficiency for the Indian Army. Was it wise to sacrifice efficiency to the exigencies of Imperial needs? Undoubtedly this scheme for imposing so large an extra burden would have a prejudicial effect on the people of India, and the words of the Viceroy were a strong censure on the action of the home Government, which he ventured to say had nothing to do with India or with the welfare of the Empire. It seemed to be more the proposal of a gentleman desiring to increase his practice at the Old Bailey than that of a far-sighted Imperial statesman. Who was the arbitrator selected? The Lord Chief Justice. And this great change was decided in the same building and by the same people as were connected with divorce cases and other unsavory matters. That was bringing Imperialism down to a very low level. The award was given entirely in favour of the home Government, and all the contentions of the noble Lord and the Indian Government were swept aside. But the proposal, which had now been dropped, to make the Indian Government pay for the increased garrison in South Africa, was the most monstrous of all. Surely for Imperial purposes the Imperial Government could pay its own way. The proposal appeared to emanate from that extraordinary body, the Defence Committee, who always had their eyes fixed on the wrong place. That Committee should be set to work on the fiscal inquiry, and as they were generally wrong they would probably come out on the side of the Colonial Secretary. It was very hard that the necessity of an army in India should be made the pretext for further exactions from India. If England continued to throw such burdens on India, without considering whether she could bear them, the extravagance would become an Imperial menace, and he could not conceive anything more dangerous than that the people of India should get the idea that they were being exploited for the benefit of the home country. Why did not the noble Lord govern India according to the wishes of the people as expressed by the Indian Government? He protested against these constant attempts to bleed the people of India, millions of whom were on the verge of starvation, and contended that the practice was not founded on the principles of justice.

*DR. SHIPMAN (Northampton) shared the view of the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean that there was not much cause for rejoicing in the present Budget. The financial position showed great stability, but that did not necessarily point to the welfare of the people of India. The satisfaction at the reduction of the salt tax was largely minimised by the statement that that, too, was a sort of financial reserve. In England, that description was applied to the income tax which fell on people able to pay it, but the salt tax fell upon the poorest of the people. The population was chiefly dependent upon agriculture, which, according to the Secretary of State, was in a deplorable condition and lacked expansion. In such a state of things, where was the evidence of the comfort of the people. Moreover, according to the Census of 1901, the population was stationary, and that was always regarded as a mark of the decay of a nation. There was no occasion for congratulation, and he failed to understand how the noble Lord could conscientiously contend that we had improved the condition of the 300,000,000 people of India, who were seven times the number of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom.

*DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.) said it was a curious circumstance that while the Government had done a great deal to improve the condition of the Army Medical Corps, the present Secretary of State for War was a much-abused man (wrongly, he thought), as he had instituted many most valuable Army reforms, and was a hard and conscientious worker. But if he had never done anything but reform the Royal Army Medical Corps, he had succeeded where all other Secretaries of State had failed, and he deserved, and would in the end receive, the eternal gratitude of the British public, and especially of the British soldier. The Indian Government seemed bent on refusing to learn the lesson taught by the agitation to reform the Royal Army Medical Corps, and were trying to destroy the Indian medical service, which he trusted the Secretary of State for India, who had performed such great services to his country in various important offices, would surely frustrate. In recent years the rate of pension had fallen from £750 to £500, and one of the chief grievances was the limitation of private fees by the Government. The rules which had been laid down were an insult to the service of the medical profession. The result of these pin-pricks would be to destroy the popularity of the service, but he hoped that now the matter had been brought before the House by one of so high scientific attainments as the hon. Member for London University, the noble Lord would take these complaints into consideration.

MR. OSMOND WILLIAMS (Merionethshire) drew attention to the cost of the Durbar, which had been described by Lord Curzon as a landmark in the native history of India. There was no definite announcement made in Lord Curzon's speech as to any reforms for the people of India. Vague promises of some financial relief had been made, but the Government should have gone further than they had indicated in the remission of taxation and in broadening the basis of Indian administration. The present unsympathetic Imperialism and cast-iron exclusion of the natives from all participation in the government of their own affairs, was a poor policy after the expectations raised by the Durbar. He had not a word to say against Lord Curzon. His Lordship had done very well, but he had not faced the problem of Indian poverty. Let the House contrast the last quarter of a century with the two decades preceding. From 1858 to 1878, in the reign of Canning, Lawrence, and Northbrook, peace and retrenchments prevailed, frontier wars were avoided, Mysore was given back to native administration, education was promoted, and Universities were established; but from 1878 to the present time had been a period of "Imperialism," and there had been a reign of depression, wasteful wars, and no remedial legislation, two Afghan wars, large increases of debt and taxation, and the exclusion of the natives from the higher services, and frequent and devastating famines. Was the Durbar to be the high-water mark of reform for these struggling and silent people? Was there no statesman to remove this devastating and blighting Imperialism from India, and give the people of India some voice in the management of their own affairs? Without such reforms the Durbar would be a mockery.

*MR COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough) thought the statement of the noble Lord that the increase of military expenditure was justifiable, apart from Imperial considerations, could hardly have been well considered. The alarms to which we had been subjected were mainly due to our persistent determination to prevent Russia reaching the open sea. Great Britain had blocked her out of the Eastern Mediterranean; refused her access to the Persian Gulf, and driven her to extend her Siberian communications into Manchuria. The arrival of Russia at Port Arthur in the Pacific was the ultimate consequence of the closing of the Dardanelles. Did any expert believe that the conquest of India by Russia was within the range of possibility for this generation? India possessed so long a seaboard that no military Power could hold that country against a Power commanding the sea. Those best acquainted with the problem knew that the real object of Russia was quite different. Her India was to be found in a reversion to the Asiatic provinces of Turkey. Her necessity was open ports for all the year round. These were the real reasons for these fresh charges on the resources of India. In recent years there had been an increase of population which was startling in comparison with the condition of things before the British occupation. When famine and plague were not at work, there was a surplus for which provision must be found. The present population was probably in excess per acre of the number the land could properly carry. China, in a like condition, found the necessity for an outlet irresistible. Indian colonies were already scattered on the eastern seaboard of Africa. The tropical and sub-tropical portions of our African territory were well fitted to our Indian fellow-subjects, but practically impossible to white colonisation. Let the Government secure equal rights of British citizenship to the Indian colonists, and the inter-dependence of the two countries for military defence might be then fairly discussed.

*LORD GEORGE HAMILTON said the question of the position of the Chief Courts of Burma and the Punjab had been frequently before the Indian Government, and only recently they came to the conclusion that under the particular conditions which existed in both those provinces it was advisable still to keep the Courts as they were. The subsidy payable to the late Ameer of Afghanistan was dependent on an agreement made between him and the Indian Government, and they were in negotiation with the present Ameer for an agreement on somewhat similar lines. There was a certain credit at the disposal of his Highness the late Ameer which the present Ameer has not exhausted; and, pending the conclusion of the new arrangement, the Viceroy is perfectly ready, if His Highness wishes, to make some pecuniary advance in connection with the subsidy that would, when the arrangement was completed, be payable to the Ameer. He thought hon. Members might fairly assume that if the Ameer had not drawn upon this credit, it was because his treasury was in such a satisfactory condition that for the time being he did not want it.

THE MASTER OF ELIBANK: It is not correct to say, then, that he has declined the subsidy?

*LORD GEORGE HAMILTON said it was not true. He would like to make one criticism upon the speeches which had been made by hon. Gentlemen opposite. He did not think hon. Gentlemen realised the mischievous effect which the language they used produced in India. His right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War and himself had been attacked in the customary recognised Parliamentary manner because they made certain proposals that did not meet with the view of hon. Gentlemen opposite. Provided that that language was confined to these islands he should be the last man to object; but when it went out to India it would have the most unfortunate effect; and those out there who read the speeches that had been made that night would be under the impression, notwithstanding the statement by the Secretary of State for War and himself, that there had been an unfair attempt made to place on the Indian Revenues charges which properly belonged to the Imperial Exchequer. That was absolutely untrue, and he ventured respectfully to protest against language and arguments of the kind that had been used. He had, during the time he had been responsible for the Government of India, tried to hold the balance between the Indian Exchequer and the Imperial Exchequer, and he had been successful in effecting an arrangement which previous Secretaries of State for India had failed to achieve. In this particular case of the increase of pay, everybody talked as though an unnecessary charge had been suddenly imposed on India. It was part and parcel of the contract which existed between the Indian Government and the Imperial Government that the Indian Government should pay to all the soldiers to be maintained by them the same emoluments that were paid to the soldiers in the Home Army. The British Government were forced by exigencies to put up the rate of pay and to charge the taxpayers of this country with that part which was due to be payable to the men in the Home Army; and surely it was a monstrous perversion of the fact to pretend that the Government had gone out of their way to put an unnecessary charge on the Indian Government. And yet that was the language that had been used from first to last. He would ask hon. Gentlemen just to consider, before they spoke again on the Indian Budget, what effect it would have in India. He could assure them that that language went out exaggerated and distorted, and that it became greatly magnified in the native Press. If they really believed that the union of the two countries was beneficial to both, they should be careful not to make use of language, the consequence of which they would be the first to deplore.

The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean based his objection to the proposal for keeping a reserve in South Africa almost on one word. He said they must assume that there must be immediate reinforcements of the garrison of India in certain contingencies, and contended that no reinforcement would be necessary for a considerable number of months. He went on to imply that any military man or expert who looked into the question would arrive at his opinion. That was exactly the point that had been gone into with great minuteness, and it was because in certain contingencies reinforcements must arrive in India at a given time, if they were to be of any use at all, that they had made the suggestion as to the maintenance of a reserve in South Africa. If that proposal was put on one side a future Government might be forced to come to the conclusion that they had no alternative but to increase the garrison of India. It was because he had always been in favour of economy in India in regard to the military establishment that be had given his assent reluctantly to this proposal, which he believed was the most economical solution of the question. As regarded the military question, there were two matters worthy of consideration. First of all, was the present system the best ? He had always believed that from the Indian point of view it was the most economical, and he thought there were serious political objections to establishing a separate white force in India that would always be located there. A Prætorian guard always suggested ideas that were applicable in every climate and every country, and it would be regretable if a white force misbehaved and could not be removed. He admitted that it was a debatable point, and that there were men of high authority who held a different opinion. He believed that this was the best system for India, but he admitted that if the financial strain of the present system became too great it might be necessary to reconsider the question. The second question was —did the system work fairly between India and Great Britain ? To the best of his belief, it had worked fairly in the sense that India paid for nothing except to compensate the War Office for the actual disbursements which they made. It might be that the system was expensive and that from time to time charges were put upon India which they would rather not have to impose, but that was not a question of mere justice.

He had listened with some regret to the remarks of one hon. Member who drew a contrast between the policy of Lord Curzon and that of some of his predecessors. The hon. Member pointed to the state of poverty in which the Indian people were said to be now as compared with what they were in previous years. He ventured, with some personal knowledge, to controvert those statements. He did not think that more attention had ever been given to every branch of Indian administration so as to ameliorate the condition of the poorer classes than was the case now. And this was carried on with a due regard to the Imperial well-being of India. There had been a large reduction of taxation ; there had been an improvement in agriculture; education had been reorganised and its administration improved. Surely all these were matters that should come home to the poorest classes in India. He thought that it was very unfair to charge Lord Curzon with neglecting the poorer community because he had Imperial aspirations. On the contrary, he thought the prolongation of Lord Curzon's term of office had given universal satisfaction, and to none more than to the poorest of the population. With regard to the position of their Indian fellow-subjects in South Africa, there was a desire that every legitimate pressure should be used with regard to the local authorities, so that the natives of India should be treated more in accordance with British rule and British ideas; and he could only assure his hon. friend that he should do everything in his power to bring legitimate pressure to bear to ameliorate the position of their Indian subjects already located in South Africa.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) said the noble Lord had thought it necessary to lecture those hon. Members who had ventured to differ from him in the debate upon this question. The noble Lord had also taken credit for carrying out great reforms. Surely hon. Members of this House were entitled to put forward their views without being told that they were perverting facts while the Secretary of State for India himself claimed to be the only reformer on Indian matters. He wished to ask the noble Lord one or two Questions. He wished to know in the first place what were the Imperial aspirations which he said Lord Curzon held. The noble Lord stated that a certain amount of deference was due to Lord Curzon in that matter. He ventured to think that the fact Lord Curzon held these Imperial aspirations, was all the more reason why some Members of the House should object strongly to the new Imperialism. It appeared that the Secretary of State for India had been in communication with the Colonial Office with reference to Indian subjects in the Transvaal. He understood from what he had seen in the Press that the argument in favour of coolies being allowed to be imported in South Africa, was that their labour was required. He asked the noble Lord to give a reply, "yes" or "no," to this Question. Has he given any distinct reply to the Colonial Office on the question of the importation of coolies? He must be well aware that in the Legislative Council of the Transvaal an ordinance had been passed distinctly excluding Indians from participating in the administration of the Transvaal. If the hon. Member for North-East Bethnal Green were in the Transvaal he would not be allowed to sit in the Legislative Council. He submitted therefore that this was an injustice to place upon an intelligent portion of Indian subjects. Having in view that this ordnance had been passed, the Indian Government had stated that they would refuse to allow any importation of coolies into South Africa. The noble Lord was also aware that the President of the British Indian Association in the Transvaal had addressed several protests to the Colonial Office with reference to the ill-treatment of Indian subjects there. A petition from that association stated that never in the time of President Kruger's rule were they so badly treated as they were now. Would the noble Lord say now definitely whether the indignties to British Indian subjects in the Transvaal were to be permitted to continue with the sanction and approval of the India Office?

*LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: Certainly not.

Question put, and agreed to.

(Considered in Committee.)

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it appears from the Accounts presented to Parliament that in 1901–2 the revenue of India amounted to £76,344,535, the expenditure charged against revenue to £71,394,282, and the capital expenditure not charged to revenue to £4,071,152.—(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

Resolution to be reported.

MILITARY LANDS BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

PENAL SERVITUDE BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

POOR PRISONERS DEFENCE BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Resolved, That this House do meet to-morrow at Ten of the clock.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 28th day of July, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 14*th August*, 1903.

RETURNS REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

No. 394 Turks and Caicos Islands. Report for 1902.

BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, with appendices (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 1254]).

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Memoranda, statistical tables, and charts prepared in the Board of Trade with reference to various matters bearing on British and foreign trade and industrial conditions.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie upon the Table.

PREFERENTIAL AND RETALIATORY DUTIES.

Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of Wednesday last), and to be printed. (No. 220.)

SUBSIDIES TO SHIPPING COMPANIES.

Returns respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of yesterday), and to be printed. (No. 221.)

SOUTH AFRICA (SHIPMENT OF RAILS).

Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of yesterday), and to be printed. (No. 222.)

LOCOMOTIVES ACT, 1865.

Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of yesterday), and to be printed.

MILITARY LANDS BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to.

POOR PRISONERS' DEFENCE BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

Brought from the Commons: Read 1^a: Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill, read 2^a (*The Earl of Selborne*): Committee negatived: Bill read 3^a, and passed.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

1. Consolidated Fund (Appropriation).
2. London Education.
3. Marriages Legalisation.
4. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.
5. Railways (Electrical Power).
6. South African Loan and War Contribution.
7. Military Works.
8. Public Works Loans.
9. Isle of Man (Customs).
10. Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2.)
11. Public Buildings Expenses.
12. Expiring Laws Continuance.
13. Revenue.
14. Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment.
15. Poor Prisoners' Defence.
16. County Courts Jurisdiction Extension.
17. Motor Cars.
18. Burgh Police (Scotland).
19. Town Councils (Scotland).
20. Sheep Scab.
21. Irish Land.
22. Employment of Children.
23. Military Lands.
24. Marine Store Dealers (Ireland).
25. Airdrie and Coatbridge Tramways Orders Confirmation.
26. Lerwick Harbour Improvements Act, 1877, Amendment Order Confirmation.
27. Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation.
28. Auchterarder Town Council Order Confirmation.
29. Patent Office (Extension).
30. South Staffordshire Tramways.
31. Liverpool University.
32. Bradford Corporation.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

33. Bury and District Joint Water Board.
34. Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways.
35. Salford Corporation.
36. Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power.
37. North Western Electricity and Power Gas.
38. Hastings Harbour.
39. Hastings Harbour District Railway.
40. Scottish Central Electric Power.
41. Mid Yorkshire Tramways.
42. Bangor Corporation.
43. South-Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway.
44. Ebbw Vale Improvement.
45. Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation.
46. Dover Corporation.
47. Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board.
48. Stroud and District Tramways.
49. Erith Tramways and Improvement.
50. Great Central Railway.
51. Gateshead Corporation.
52. South Yorkshire Joint Railways.
53. North-Eastern Railway.
54. Sheffield Corporation.
55. Cork Harbour.
56. Hainault Forest.
57. Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway.
58. Coventry Electric Tramways.
59. Strabane, Raphoe, and Convoy Railway.
60. Croydon and District Electric Tramways.
61. Ulster and Connaught Light Railways.
62. North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the Lord High Chancellor (in pursuance of His Majesty's Command) as followeth :—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"The visit which I was able to pay during the spring to the capitals of Portugal, Italy, and France, has, I trust, produced good results. Nothing could have exceeded the cordiality of the reception which I experienced throughout my journey.

"More recently the President of the French Republic has been My guest. His visit has given rise to a striking exhibition of the feelings of mutual goodwill which prevail between the two countries.

"The situation in the European provinces of Turkey continues to be a subject of general anxiety. My Government, acting in concert with those of Austria-Hungary and Russia and the other Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, have used their best efforts to restrict the area of disturbance, and to impress upon those concerned the necessity of self-restraint and moderation.

"I earnestly hope that the scheme of reforms pressed on the Porte by the two Powers most nearly concerned, and strongly supported by My Government, may effect some improvement in the condition of all classes of the population in Macedonia.

"The ratifications of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation concluded with China in September, 1902, have now been exchanged, and portions of the Treaty will come into immediate operation.

"I have also concluded with His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Persia a Convention which will place the commercial relations of the two countries on a more secure and satisfactory basis in the future.

"In the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies the work of resettlement and pacification has made great progress. The recently constituted Legislative Councils, containing unofficial members representing the various interests and sections of the community, have held their first session, and have rendered valuable services in preparing and passing the measures necessary for the good Government of My new Colonies. A Customs Convention, which includes preferential treatment for imports from the mother country, has been ratified by the Legislatures of all the Colonies of British South Africa, the union of which, for fiscal purposes, is an important and necessary step in the direction of their ultimate political federation.

"In My Indian Empire the return of favourable seasons and the improvement of the finances have enabled important reductions of taxation to be given, which, I trust, will perceptibly ameliorate the condition of the people. Agriculture and trade continue to exhibit signs of sustained progress, while the most recent information as to the present season's rainfall and the promise of the crops is generally reassuring.

"The operations conducted by My forces in Somaliland for the protection of certain tribes who had suffered from the depredations of the Mullah Abdullah have not yet been concluded; but the flight of the enemy's forces from his original position in a north-easterly direction will enable a further movement to be undertaken against him under more favourable conditions.

"I am glad to have been able, within the last few months, to visit My people both in Scotland and Ireland. The warm expressions of goodwill with which I was everywhere received have greatly touched Me.

"In Ireland My visit to the Capital, to Belfast, the chief centre of industrial enterprise, to Londonderry, through Connemara to Galway, and to Cork, enabled Me to realise how much is being attempted, and by how many agencies, to improve the housing accommodation of the working population, to stimulate commercial activity, to advance the methods of agriculture, to develop technical education, and to provide for the sick and infirm. Much remains to be done, but it was with feelings of the deepest gratification that I noticed signs of increasing concord between all classes in Ireland, presaging, as I hope, a new era of united efforts for the general welfare.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*—

"I thank you for the liberality with which you have made provision for the services for the year.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"A measure to expedite the conversion of agricultural tenancies into occupation ownerships throughout Ireland has been passed in a form which offers inducements towards the continued residence of landowners among their countrymen, and provides facilities for improving the conditions of life in the poorer districts of the West. This reform, by removing ancient causes of social dissension, will, I heartily trust, conduce to the common benefit of all My Irish subjects.

"The scheme for co-ordinating and improving our system of secondary and elementary education, which was applied to the rest of England and Wales by the enactment of last year, has now been completed by its extension to London. I am hopeful that great advantage will be derived from this far-reaching educational reform.

"Although the measure for making the Port of London adequate, under modern conditions, to the commercial needs of the Metropolis, has not passed through all its stages, the time expended on it has not been lost; and I trust it will become law at an early period of next session.

"I congratulate you on passing an Act enabling My Government to carry into effect My engagement to co-operate with other Powers in bringing about the abolition of bounties on sugar.

"The law relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors in Scotland has been consolidated and greatly improved.

"I have gladly given My assent to legislation for regulating the employment of children, for controlling the use of motor-cars, and for reorganising the administration of the Patriotic Fund.

"I pray that the results of your labours may be assured by the protection and blessing of Almighty God."

Then a Commission for proroguing Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's name, and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Monday the Second day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Monday the Second day of November next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 14*th August*, 1903.

The House met at Ten of the Clock.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT LOAD LINE.

Communicated Paper [presented 13th August]; to be printed. [No. 356.]

BOILER EXPLOSIONS ACTS, 1882 AND 1890.

Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th August; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No 357.]

TEACHERS' PENSION FUND (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Report on the Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Fund (Ireland) on the 31st December 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table, List of the Bills, Reports, Estimates, and Accounts and Papers printed by order of the House, and of Papers presented by Command, Session 1903, with a General Alphabetical Index thereto, 27th Parliament, Fourth Session, 3rd Edward VII., 17th February, 1903, to 14th August, 1903; to be printed. [No. 358.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Shipments of Welsh Coal to the Far East.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can give the shipments of Welsh coal for last month and the corresponding month of 1902 to Japan, China and Hong-Kong, and Colombo and Singapore respectively, and also the shipments to the same countries and ports for the first seven months of 1903 and 1902; can he say, under shipments, to which country the coal is entered in the monthly Board of Trade Returns in cases where a charter party contains the option of several ports of destination, and is the exporter required to declare a specific destination.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The following figures give the information asked for so far as it can be supplied.

Quantities of Welsh coal exported to the undermentioned countries during the months of July 1902 and 1903, and also the quantities exported during the seven months ended 31st July 1902 and 1903, respectively—

Countries.	Month. July.		Seven Months ended 31st July.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Japan - - - - - -	3,236	20,806	30,952	74,917
China and Hong-Kong - -	—	21,377	65,086	120,933
Ceylon and Straits Settlements -	11,004	29,429	234,925	172,200

The place of destination is required to be stated in the Customs Export Entries. In the comparatively few cases in which more than one port is stated, the coal is credited to the country in which the first-mentioned port is situated.

Produce of United Kingdom Supplied for War Purposes in South Africa.

MR. WHITLEY THOMSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state for the years 1900, 1901, and 1902 what are the amounts of the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom supplied for war purposes in South Africa which are included in the Board of Trade Returns for these years.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I am not able to supply the hon. Member with the required information. The Question should be addressed to the Board of Trade.

Commissions in King's African Rifles for Volunteers.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether any commissions in the King's African Rifles have been given to Volunteers under Home District Order No. 2, of 18th March, 1903; and, if so, how many.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) No officer of the Volunteer Forces has yet been selected for appointment to the King's African Rifles.

Veterinary Doctors and the Army Veterinary Department.

MR. WILLIAM M'KILLOP (Sligo, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that the leaders of the veterinary profession have advised their recent graduates not to join the Army Veterinary Department under the existing warrant; will he state how many men the Department are in want of, and how many men were up at the last examination, and how many passed; and also if the Report of the Committee on the Army Veterinary Department is yet signed; and, if so, will he give the date of signing, and lay it upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I am aware that veterinary surgeons have been advised in certain publications not to enter the Army Department; but the heads of the veterinary college disclaim any such advice. The number of vacancies is now forty. At the last examination there were four candidates, and two failed medically and the other two failed to qualify. The Report was signed on the 8th April. It is not proposed to publish it; but action is being taken with regard to it.

Condition of Artillery Horses exposed to weather at Trawsfynydd Camp, Merionethshire.

MR. OSMOND WILLIAMS (Merionethshire): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the condition of the Artillery horses in the camp at Trawsfynydd, Merionethshire, during the four weeks of rain in the month of July, when they were exposed to the weather without any covering; and, if so, whether he will take steps to remedy this condition of things.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) No Report has been received at the War Office of the matter mentioned. The General Officer Commanding may safely be relied upon to take such steps as may be necessary in such cases.

Autumn Cruise of Channel Squadron.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state what arrangements have been made for the cruise of the Channel Squadron during the ensuing autumn; and whether it is part of the arrangements that the Squadron is to visit Lough Foyle on its cruise.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The programme proposed for the autumn cruise of the Channel Fleet has not yet been received from the Vice-Admiral Commanding. The Vice-Admiral has been directed to consider the question of including a visit to Lough Foyle in the programme for the cruise, should the convenience of the Service allow; but I cannot yet state definitely whether it will be found possible to comply with the wishes that have been expressed on this point.

Erection of Buoy on Tuns Bank, Lough Foyle.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the gaslighted sounding buoy promised by him on behalf of the Irish Light Commissioners some months ago to be erected at the Tuns Bank entrance to Lough Foyle has as yet been placed in position; and, if not, what is the cause of the delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I am informed by the Commissioners of Irish Lights that the buoy referred to by the hon. Member has not yet been placed in position. Special buoys have to be constructed, and gasworks for charging them erected, all of which are being proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

Alleged Deserters from Steamship "Romford" at Madagascar.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the circumstances under which eleven seamen were left behind as alleged deserters from the steamship "Romford," of London, at the port of Vohemar, Madagascar, on the 12th December last; if so, whether he can state the amount of wages due to these men and the amount expended by the owners in hiring substitutes in the place of men so left behind; whether the balance of the wages due to the said eleven men has been paid over to the Consolidated Fund as provided for by the Merchant Shipping Act; and whether, seeing that the master of the steamship "Romford," before leaving the men behind, failed to obtain a certificate from a Consul or two merchants stating the circumstances under which the men were so left behind, he will say what action he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) My attention has been directed to this case, but wages accounts have not been rendered, nor have the Board of Trade any information as to the expenses incurred by the owners in hiring substitutes. No balances have been paid over by the owners, and the question of claiming from them repayment of expenses incurred by the Government for the seamen is now under consideration.

Delay in Telegram to Colombo.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that a telegram sent to Colombo on the 21st March last did not reach the person to whom it was addressed up to the evening of the 24th March when he sailed away from that island; that on applying for redress the sender was informed by the British postal authorities that no compensation was possible, and that an inquiry could not be instituted because under the regulations of the International Telegraph Convention a complaint of a delay of an extra European telegram is not referred from one administration to another unless the delay amounts to six days; and, if so, whether he will endeavour to remedy this state of things, and reduce the six days limit to one of six hours.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The telegram in question was ordered by the sender to be forwarded viâ Turkey, and although duly despatched from this country it appears to have subsequently sustained the delay of which complaint was made. Under the present regulations of the International Telegraph Convention, inquiries are not, as a rule, made into cases of delay unless the delay is such as to constitute a claim to refundment of the charge. In the case of Extra European telegrams this delay is fixed at six days; but under the revised regulations which were adopted at the recent International Telegraph Conference, and which will come into force on 1st July, 1904, this period will be reduced to three days.

Approximate Values of British Agricultural Productions.

MR. LAMBERT: (Devonshire, South Molton): To ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if there are any estimates, and, if so, would he give them, of the approximate annual values produced by British farmers of wheat, barley, oats, other grain, beef, mutton, pork, butter, cheese, and milk, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) Returns are collected annually by the Board of the estimated production of wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas, potatoes, roots, hops, and hay in Great Britain, and Returns of the prices of the three principal cereals are also obtained under the Corn Returns Act, 1882. The total quantity of wheat, barley, and oats estimated to have been produced in Great Britain in 1901, valued at the average of official prices returned during the cereal year 1901–2, would give the following results:—

Wheat	£9,289,000
Barley	9,898,000
Oats	13,993,000
	£33,180,000

A considerable proportion of these crops is, of course, not actually sold by farmers. The proportion is different in the case of each crop, and would vary from one year to another according to season and other conditions. The Board have no official statistics of the value of the other commodities mentioned in the Question, but unofficial estimates have from time to time been made to which we shall be happy to refer the hon. Member.

Loss on Working of Pacific Cable.

CAPTAIN CLIVE (Herefordshire, Ross): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that the loss on the working of the Pacific Cable amounted to £120,000 in the year ending 31st March, 1903, he can state the amount of the estimated loss at the end of the current financial year.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The hon. Member has been misinformed on this matter. It is not the fact that the expenditure of the Pacific Cable Board amounted in the two years ending 31st March, 1903, to £120,000. The expenditure of the Board during the two years 1901-2 and 1902-3 in which the pacific cable was being made amounted to £110,000; the earnings of the cable which had been actually paid over to it before the 31st March, 1903, amounted to £19,500, and this sum, I understand, did not include sundry amounts collected by, but not received from, the various administrations concerned. The net loss, or rather the difference between the actual receipts and expenditure, amounted, therefore, not to £120,000 but to £90,500, and this sum included £46,000 for interest on debt incurred during construction of the line, and £16,500 set aside as a provision for the estimated renewal for the cable itself and the other property of the Board. It is too soon to predict with any approach to accuracy the results of the working of the present financial year, but the Board last January expressed an opinion that if nothing unforeseen occurred the traffic receipts in the twelve months ending 31st March, 1904, would reach £73,400. It placed its expenditure at £168,000, but it included in this sum: (a) £77,500, the interest and sinking fund on the debt; and (b) £35,500, which it is proposed to set aside during the year for the renewal of the cable and its other property. The sinking fund, it may be added, is calculated to replace the whole capital expenditure of the Board in a period of fifty years.

Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act—Working of Section 17, Sub-section (a).

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Department of Agriculture in Ireland to put into operation Section 17, Sub-section (a), of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899; has the Department instituted any investigation with a view to have this sub-section duly administered; and has the Department considered the necessity of appointing a permanent official conversant with railway traffic for the administration of this section in order to protect Irish industries.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Department has taken action in one case under the enactment referred to. A permanent official, fully conversant with railway traffic, is already on the staff of the Department.

Erection of Goods Shed at Rashenny Station.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the experience gained by the working company of the Buncrana and Carndonagh Railway of the need for a goods shed at Rashenny Station on this railway, the Government will consider the advisability of erecting one out of the surplus profits accruing to the Treasury from the working of the line.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The provision of a goods store at Rashenny is a matter for the railway company if it is considered requisite for the public accommodation. The reply to the Question is, therefore, in the negative.

Assimilation of Salaries in Irish Agricultural Department.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the Treasury have within the last twelve months consented to certain clerks in the Agricultural Department, who have approximately ten years service, being given salaries of £120 a year, the Department will take immediate steps to place on the same footing certain other clerks with nine to eleven years service who perform the same class of duties as the gentlemen first mentioned, but whose salaries are still considerably under £100 per annum.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The proposals made by the Department in the cases of these clerks were very carefully considered by the Treasury. It is not at present proposed to take further action in the matter.

Sale of Glebe Lands at Maghery, County Donegal.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the fact that some of the lands of Maghery Glebe, County Donegal, were sold by the Ecclesiastical Estates Commissioners without due notice; and, if so, whether anything can now be done to remedy the error.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) These lands were sold by the Commissioners of Church Temporalities to the occupying tenants in 1876. If the hon. Member will refer to the appendix to the final Report of the Commissioners [C. 2773] of session 1880, he will find the names of some forty-seven tenants to whom the lands were sold. In eighteen of these cases the conveyances were made direct to the occupying tenants, while in the remaining twenty-nine cases the holdings were conveyed at the request of the purchasing tenants to other parties.

Construction of New Pier at Buncrana on Lough Swilly.

MR. O'DOHERTY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the occasion of the visit of His Majesty to Lough Swilly a pontoon had to be temporarily constructed off Buncrana Pier in order that His Majesty's barge could approach the pier; and that, on the departure of His Majesty in the evening difficulty was experienced by reason of want of water at the pier head; and whether in view of these circumstances, and the number of fishing smacks that during the fishing season cannot find accommodation at this pier, the Irish Department of Agriculture will consider the advisability of constructing a proper pier and harbour at this centre.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The question of the construction of a pier at Buncrana is engaging attention.

Evictions on the Massareen Estate, County Louth.

MR. NOLAN (Louth, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in connection with the pending eviction of Mrs. McQuillen, Massareen Estate, Collon, County Louth, he will say if inquiry as to the state of affairs has been made from the tenant as to her ability to produce receipts for twelve years' rent paid for the holding within the past twelve years; and, if so, whether he proposes to lend the forces of the Crown to carry out the eviction.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The police questioned both the tenant and the agent but not for the purpose of determining whether protection in the execution of the ejectment decree should be granted. The Government has no dispensing power as the hon. Member appears to suggest. It is the imperative duty of the police to afford every requisite measure of protection in the execution of the decrees of a Court of Law.

Commissions in the Regular Army—Regulations for Militia Officers.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, with reference to paragraph 5 of the new regulations for the examination of candidates for commissions in the Regular Forces, officers who joined the Militia before 1st January, 1903, will be allowed for a reasonable period to compete under the conditions which are now in force, and for which they have prepared themselves.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The military competitive examination referred to in paragraph 5 will be a paper examination only (as far as 1904 is concerned), and the necessary qualifying literary examination may be passed at the Army Entrance Examinations of November, 1903, or June, 1904. Those candidates who have already qualified at such examinations will not be called upon to qualify for a second time.

Clerks in High Courts of Justice—Age Limit—Extension to Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork Co., N.E.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state, in regard to the clerks employed in the High Courts of Justice, when the sixty-five year age limit will come into operation; and whether this rule will at the same time be extended to Ireland, and apply to the clerks employed in the Four Courts, Dublin.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) The Orders in Council relating to compulsory retirement at the age of sixty-five are not applied to clerks employed in the High Court of Justice or in the Four Courts, Dublin.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this Bill be now read a third time."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he was afraid that he and his friends who were responsible for that sitting of the House would be looked upon as the common enemy. They would have been equally glad with hon. Gentlemen opposite had it been possible to finish the work of the session on the preceding night, but the matter they desired to bring forward was one in which their constituents took a deep interest, and possibly there would be no other opportunity of discussing it in this Parliament. He would first call attention to the new bylaw which had been issued by the Education Department, interpreting the conscience clause. This by-law, if given an ordinary interpretation, was, he thought, an admirable document, and he would not have deemed it possible to place upon it the interpretation since given to it by the Minister of Education in the House of Lords. It proposed to give the local authorities the right to declare that the time during which religious instruction was given in any school should not be regarded as ordinary school hours in the time-table, so that if any parents objected to the religious instruction they could not merely withdraw their children from that instruction, but from the school during the time in which it was given. That to his mind was an admirable proviso, especially as there were some 3,000 parents taking advantage of the conscience clause. But what happened was that such children were detained within the precincts of the school, and in some cases where no class rooms were available they were put in dark corridors and forced to remain there. They were practically imprisoned, although they might be better off in gaol ["Oh, oh!"] for a convict was not put in a corridor, but given a decent cell. The interpretation put upon the conscience clause was not a fair one. Such children should either be allowed to go home, or to stay at home longer if the religious instruction was given in the early morning. In the debate in the other House it was argued that children ought not to be allowed to leave the school buildings unless some provision was made for religious instruction for them elsewhere. That was not a fair interpretation to put on the conscience clause. There were thousands of parents who had no affection for any dogmas at all, and why should their children be penalised by being detained forcibly for no useful purpose? In addition to that it was not always possible, especially in rural districts, to provide special religious instruction for children during school hours. This was a matter in which the will of the parents should prevail.

The interpretation put upon the new Act, to the effect that County Councils were bound to provide prayer books and catechisms was one which nobody contemplated at the time of the passing of the Act, nor indeed was it supposed for one instant that they were to be held responsible for the efficiency of religious instruction. If they were responsible, who was to report on the efficiency? Were the inspectors to examine children in the dogmas of the Catholic faith? It had been understood that the County Councils were taking over the responsibility for secular instruction, and that the responsibility for religious instruction would be upon the managers. If the local education authorities were responsible for providing catechisms, prayer-books, and books of comment on religious matters, had they any voice at all in the selection of the books? In a school he knew of at Cardiff, for instance, a catechism was used in which the following question and answer occurred:—"Should you attend a Nonconformist place of worship?—No; it would be very foolish and wrong." Now the Cardiff County Council was composed mainly of Nonconformists, and represented Nonconformists, according to the new interpretation of the Act they were responsible for the efficiency of the religious instruction in the schools under their control. Would the education authority be compelled to pay for copies of that catechism? Take, for instance, the catechisms taught in some High Church Schools. There was Knott's Catechism which stated that the Holy Ghost never visited dissenting places of worship. Would they be compelled to provide copies of that catechism at the invitation of fanatical intolerant bigoted gentlemen, and at the expense of the Nonconformist ratepayers? Would they be compelled to provide copies of Gace's catechism in schools in which it was now used? If so, passive resistance would soon pass out of the passive stage. He contended that if the education authority was responsible for the efficiency of religious instruction, if they had to pay for the books, they had the right to select them.

He desired, in passing, to offer a word of thanks to the hon. Baronet for the new section drafted under the Welsh scheme for the purpose of uniting Welsh County Councils and giving them joint action and control over elementary education. It had given very great satisfaction in Wales, and he felt perfectly confident that the results would be most beneficial, especially if the Board of Education would show the same trust in this joint authority as in the bodies which dealt with secondary and higher education. The only other point to which he wished to call attention was the administration of the Act throughout the country. The Government ought to take serious consideration of the situation. The reports of disturbances throughout the country could not possibly have escaped their attention. The local authorities ought not to be left to face the difficulties alone. It was quite certain the Act was not accepted by any section of the people as a fair settlement, not by any section of the Church of England or even of the Catholic Church. Its administration had created friction and disturbance, and once or twice something approximating to riot. In one case within a mile from the House the auctioneer came to a sale armed with a revolver, and the police intervened and disarmed him. He was hustled in getting through the crowd of 2,000 persons, and he came to the conclusion that this was a fierce attack upon him, and, placing the revolver in the rostrum, he said he would shoot down the first man who assaulted him. It was in the employment of hysterical creatures like that that danger existed. It was not possible to get respectable people to sell up the goods of reputable fellow citizens, and, consequently, outsiders had to be brought in to do the work. The Government could not ignore the situation; and, although they had transferred a responsibility to the local authorities, who never asked for it, the real responsibility of the administration rested with the Government themselves. What were they going to do with the recalcitrant County Councils? It was not only the Welsh County Councils that were in question. The Cambridge and Halifax Councils had made up their minds that they would not raise money for sectarian education unless they had control of the schools, and it was not improbable that the London County Council would take the same course. What were the Government going to do? Here was a legitimate subject for inquiry. Whilst they were mixing the pigments for the colouring of their statistics could they not give a moment's consideration to this urgent problem at their very doors? He asked whether they did not think the time had come when they ought to consider this subject seriously, and, in the meantime, suspend the operation of the obnoxious part of the Act.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields) thought the Government had scarcely appreciated the responsibility under which they were in regard to this matter. They seemed to think it was purely a matter for the local authorities, but that was an entire misconception of the scope of their obligations. It was primarily a matter for the Local Government Board. They had placed on them very definite and important duties with regard to the collection of the poor rate. They had to draw up forms and orders and other documents connected with legal procedure in connection with the collection of the rates, and they had the inherent duty of advising the local authorities upon these matters. If they had issued no instructions they were guilty of a breach of duty for which they ought to answer to the country. Failure to pay the poor rate did not stand on the same footing as non-payment of a civil debt. If a man failed to pay his rates, and had no goods on which a distraint had been levied, he was liable to imprisonment. It was, in fact, a criminal offence. The overseers, if not allowed to accept part payment of rates, were in the position of saying to the debtors, "I will not let you minimise your offence. I insist that you shall magnify your offence." Why was this done? In order that the law might magnify the punishment? That was not a legal attitude for the overseers to adopt. Nobody could doubt that it was within their right to accept part payment. Why did they not do so? Why did not the Government direct them that it was their duty to do so? They had no right to magnify an offence so as to increase the punishment. It was an illegal and improper course which indicated vindictiveness. They would probably hear a good deal in the course of the debate about respect for the law, but if the Government desired to inculcate respect for the law, they must not themselves permit it to be administered in a spirit of vindictiveness. The Government dare not attack the passive resistance movement as a whole, but were throwing on the local authority the responsibility for a harsh, oppressive, and vindictive application of an unjust law.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) said that up to the present time he had never spoken one word in support of passive resistance, and he was therefore entitled to criticise the action taken by the local authorities in this matter. In the debate on the Second Reading of the Education Bill the Prime Minister in deprecating, in anticipation, objections to the payment of rates, referred to the fact that Churchmen had for years contributed towards the maintenance of religious instruction in elementary Church schools. They, no doubt, did pay taxes for that indirectly, but he pointed out at the time in reply to the right hon. Gentleman that immediately the payment became a direct one strong opposition would be evoked. He regretted that the Prime Minister was not present during the debate, because he wished to appeal to him and to the Government to take steps to mitigate the severity of these distress processes. In many places the overseers had agreed to accept the payment of all but the education part of the rate. If this was legal in one part of the country it must be legal in another. The Government should take steps to moderate the rising flame of passion. They were only on the threshold of that agitation, and the Government should try and allay the great wave of opposition to the law by calling on the local authorities to adopt the most moderate means possible in enforcing it. The rough manner in which distraint had been levied in many cases demanded attention. Goods had been seized far in excess of the amount required to meet the deficiency in the rate. Why should that be necessary? Why should these brokers be let loose upon an inoffensive, law-abiding community? The Prime Minister had declared there was a limit to human endurance when attention was called to the violent attacks on meetings held to protest against the South African war. There was also a limit to human endurance in this matter, which touched the consciences of thousands of most reputable citizens. To be compelled to pay for the teaching of doctrines and professions of faith with which they had no sympathy whatever, was to them an intolerable strain and an intolerable wrong. He asked the Government to mitigate the hardship of the execution of these distress warrants. The proceedings were aggravated by the bad taste of some of the magistrates from the bench, than which he could not imagine anything more calculated to inflame a still more violent opposition to the Education Act. The events on the preceding night in London should be a warning to the Government. His hon. friend the Member for North-West Norfolk was assaulted by the police, and he would like to ask the Home Secretary whether it was intended to take proceedings against the auctioneer for flourishing a loaded revolver in a public place. Had a trades unionist done anything of the kind when a strike was on they well knew what steps would have been taken against him. Over 800 summonses had been issued under the Act, half of which had not yet been heard. What possibilities of illegality and violence there were in the execution of these warrants against the most law-abiding classes of the community. Men had consciences before Parliament made laws, and they would exercise their consciences as far as they could do so, despite any physical violence which the Government might let loose upon their hitherto peaceful homes. He would be only too glad if the Government would at once take steps to moderate the wave of passion which was accumulating throughout the length and breadth of England, and which must bring injury of a serious nature to the country.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) wished to emphasise what had been said with regard to the by law upon religious education. Since the interpretation referred to had been put upon it in another place there had been great uncertainty as to how parents were to get the relief to which they were entitled. They were now called upon to write claiming the exemption of their children from religious instruction in the school, and they were also expected to certify that religious instruction was provided for their children elsewhere. These demands upon the parents were, he ventured to submit, improper. Those who claimed exemption were, in the main, parents who did not neglect the religious instruction of their children, and were certain to do their duty in that respect without the intervention of the State. Working men also were often placed at a disadvantage by being called upon to send in written applications. But he rose especially to deal with the administration of the Act, and the disturbances which had arisen in connection with what was termed passive resistance. Last night he went down to Battersea to attend what was practically the first sale of goods seized under the Education Act in the neighbourhood of London. [Laughter.] This was no laughing matter to at least half the people of this country, who were absolutely opposed to the Act. The sale took place in a small room, capable of containing 100 people, and the fact that the goods to be sold had been removed from Wimbledon to Battersea was one which could not be justified. There was a large crowd of the public assembled outside, claiming admission, but they were kept out by a force of police. When he demanded admission to the room, a robust policeman caught him by the collar and shoved him back violently. He then told the policeman that he was a Member of Parliament, upon which the policeman at once made way for him to the door. He was sorry afterwards that he had said he was a Member of Parliament, as he should like to know from practical experience how a private individual would have been treated. He should have liked to have undergone the experience which a private individual would have under the circumstances. He got into the room and found only between twenty-five and thirty people there. At any rate, it was not quarter full. He thought the Home Office ought to say whether the police were justified at a public auction in keeping the public out of the hall by force, when there was plenty of room. The men and women outside would have been quite content not to force their way in when told that the room was full. He maintained that such action would bring about unnecessary friction between the police force and the public. The Home Office ought to issue instructions to prevent the police doing, in such cases, what they would not do in the case of an ordinary public auction. Under ordinary circumstances, if there had been 300, or 400, or 1,000 people surrounding the hall, he supposed that the auctioneer, and the people whose goods were to be sold, would have been extremely glad because of the competition there would have been in the bidding for the goods; but in this case the police actually used force to prevent the people from doing that which they had a right to do. There was plenty of room in the hall, and there was a policeman inside who could have repressed any disturbance if it had arisen; but he was quite certain from the nature and character of the crowd that there would have been no resentment on their part had they been uninterfered with, and the sale would have gone on in the ordinary way. This incident at Battersea was but typical of what was going on over the length and breadth of the land. They had yet only reached the fringe of this movement. The trouble was only beginning.

He saw from the Papers that there was scarcely a single town in which crowds of from 100 to 800 people had not assembled at these sales. It must be remembered, too, that the Act had not come into force in many districts of the country. In his own county of Norfolk, and in Yorkshire, the people had as yet had no opportunity of showing their opinion, because the rate had not yet been levied. He assured the hon. Baronet that he and the Government seemed to have little idea of the strong determination there was on the part of the whole of the Nonconformists in the country to resist the payment of rates for the inculcation of dogmas which they existed as religious bodies to fight against as erroneous. He thought that in many cases the carrying out of the Act might be mitigated by the advice of the Government. There was a degree of uncertainty in the manner in which the Act was being enforced in different parts of the country. He found that the stipendiary magistrates were much more considerate and courteous in their dealings with the public than the benches of magistrates. He was not surprised at that, for those who sat on the bench to adjudicate in these cases were generally magistrates who took strong views in regard to this Act. He noticed that only two days previously an hon. Member who had strongly supported the Government in forcing this Act through the House—he meant the hon. Member for Oxford University—and who held strong views on the necessity of the State enforcing religious teaching of a particular kind, even against the consciences of the people, had sat and adjudicated in a case under the Act. One was, therefore, not surprised that he should be somewhat tyrannical in his conduct on the bench. In some cases persons summoned before the magistrates were not allowed to explain their conduct or motives, and yet the meanest wretches brought into Court were allowed to make a statement and explain their conduct in regard to far more serious matters. He commended the hon. Baronet's attention to a case at Stratford where a well known citizen was summoned for the payment of £415 for rates. The stipendiary magistrate took a rational view of the matter, and declined to give judgment for the whole of the amount. If the bailiffs had been allowed to proceed to restrain in this case they might have taken goods to the amount of £2,000 or £3,000 from this gentleman's emporium for £415 rates. This amounted to persecution of those who did not shrink from any consequences that might result from the maintenance of their conscientious views. Where was the necessity for it? He thought that it would be a very simple matter for the Local Government Board to issue a circular stating that the portion of the rate which was tendered might be accepted. He was quite sure that if these Education Act persecutions were continued in this vindictive way, it would arouse a feeling in the country which the Government would have reason to deplore. He would not detain the House further under the circumstances in which they met, but would express the hope that the hon. Baronet the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education and the President of the Local Government Board would do what in their judgment might fairly be done to prevent the Act being administered vindictively. In that way the strong feeling that was now being aroused among half the nation would be somewhat allayed and kept down all over the country.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University) said he felt it right that he should rise at this particular juncture and deal with the matters which had been raised by previous speakers in this debate. It had been suggested in a Question addressed to him yesterday that the Board of Education had issued a circular to the effect that local authorities were bound to supply prayer-books and other religious books to managers of voluntary schools. No such circular had been issued, nor had it ever entered into the mind of anyone in the Department to issue such a circular.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I think it was the impression of Canon Sewell and others that the communication addressed to them was a circular.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I never said it was a circular. I said it was a letter.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he was alluding to the terms of the Question addressed to him on the previous day. The Question of the right hon. Baronet and a part of the speech of the hon. Member for Carnarvon arose out of a point which ought never to have been raised. The Board of Education was asked whether local authorities could be called on to buy prayer-books for voluntary schools. The answer sent by the Board of Education stated the actual dry, legal facts The local education authority was responsible for the efficiency of the schools, and if religious teaching was part of the curriculum, the authority was responsible for what was needed for the efficiency of the teaching. The question would really emerge very rarely. There were only two schools in England in which it had arisen. The Education Committee of the County Council of Gloucestershire sent round a circular to all the voluntary schools to the effect that they would not purchase prayer-books or other religious books for those schools. Only two schools in the county raised any question, and they asked the Board of Education what was the legal aspect of the matter. The Board told them, as they were legally advised, that the local authority would be responsible; but the Board took care to say that it was probably the more desirable course that the managers themselves should own the books. The books would, in most voluntary schools, be wanted for Sunday school use, and the question would naturally arise as to what should be paid for the use of them. If the local authority supplied the books, it might claim to select them. Although the managers had control of religious instruction, there might arise cases in which the local education authority would say, "We have to pay for the books, and we shall choose the particular books used for the purpose of religious instruction." It was, therefore, obviously most undesirable that the managers should ask the local authority to purchase these books. The National Society had pressed strongly on all schools that the matter should be retained entirely in the hands of the managers, and that they should not ask the local education authority for any contribution towards the purchase. This was not a matter about which the local education authority should be troubled, or towards which it should be asked to contribute. He hoped that this subject, which ought never to have arisen, would cease to trouble the minds of the local education authorities in future.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Are the local education authorities equally responsible for the religious instruction in non-provided as well as in provided schools?

*SIR WILLIAM AN ON said that if the local education authorities found the teaching thoroughly inefficient, then they might treat the school accordingly. But the religious education in voluntary schools was, by Sub-section 6 of Section 7 of the Act under the control of the managers, and this relieved the local education authority of responsibility in the matter.

Something had been said about the new by-law. He thought that there was an impression abroad that this new by-law in some way trenched upon the conscience clause. The by-law had nothing whatever to do with the conscience clause, which provided that nothing should prevent the withdrawal of a child from religious instruction if the parent wished it to be so withdrawn. No conditions were imposed on the exercise of this right, and it existed subject to the inconveniences which had been mentioned. But the Act of 1870 gave a power to the School Boards, and now to the educational authorities, to make by-laws, subject to the approval of the Board of Education, and this power included that of determining the time during which children had to attend school. Under the present rules the children might be desired to move into another room to receive religious instruction of a different kind, but many schools did not offer that accommodation. The consequence would be that the children withdrawn from religious instruction might have to stand in a cloak-room or porch, or be put aside in another room, or in a different part of the room in such a way as to be subject to some inconvenience. The new by-law, therefore, provided that a parent might notify to the managers in writing his intention to withdraw the child, not merely from religious instruction, but from the school during the period of religious instruction. The conscience clause entitled withdrawal from religious instruction; the provision in the new by-law gave a further power of withdrawal from the actual school buildings while used for religious instruction. This model by-law was nothing more than a specimen by-law put before the local education authorities to adopt or not to adopt as they pleased, or to adopt for one parish and not for another; but if the local education authority did adopt the by-law, then it determined the time during which certain children might attend school in accordance with the written request of the parent. It had been objected that the Department had suggested to the local education authorities that they might impose conditions. He thought that he could convince the House that there was a very substantial reason why the local education authority should be reminded of the possibility of needing such a restriction. There was a risk that children might be kept away from school merely for the purposes of amusement, or for employment, particularly in towns. The House was aware that children were required to work by their parents, were sent out to work, or were employed at home to work, up to the very moment when school hours began, and very much to the disadvantage of their education when they were attending school. An extra half-hour might be profitably employed by the parent in using the child to earn a little more money than if he were at school. That was a serious risk which had been impressed upon the Department by the Chairman of the London School Board and others. The Education Department thought it right to address a warning to the local education authorities to watch the operation of the by-law, that it was not intended to enable children to stay away from school merely for the purposes of amusing themselves or for the purposes of employment. It was to meet the conscientious objections of those who desired their children to get religious instruction elsewhere at that period of the day or at another period of the day; and the Department had warned the authorities to watch the effect of the by-law, and, if necessary, to impose conditions.

*MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W. R., Holmfirth): Does it refer to religious observances as well as to religious instruction?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the by-law did not touch the conscience clause, which gave a right to the parent to withdraw a child from religious instruction or religious observances in the schools. That right remained; and the by-law placed before the Local Education Authorities the option of allowing a parent to take his child away from the school building during the period of religious observances as well. The Department had told the local education authorities that they must endeavour to ensure that this privilege was asked for on account of conscientious reasons, and was honestly taken advantage of. The Department did not desire to see the children kept away to play about the streets, or in order to earn a little more money for their parents Really, it was an endeavour to meet one of the great difficulties presented by the religious question in relation to education.

If religious instruction—denominational, in any form—was to be a part of a child's education it must be effected, either by free access for every kind of religious teaching in every school or by giving power to obtain such religious instruction outside the school during the school hours, or at some time corresponding to school hours.

Mr. BROADHURST: Is it to be understood that it is a condition of absence from religious teaching in the school that the child should be taught a religion somewhere else?

Mr. ROBSON: By what statutory right does the Education Department impose upon a child, withdrawn from religious instruction, such instruction elsewhere?

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he had not suggested that the Board of Education was imposing this requirement. The local education authority had to define the time wherein the children were to be taught, always subject to the conscience clause. They could determine the time subject to a condition, but they could not infringe the conscience clause; and they might say that the children must be on the school premises unless they were satisfied that they were well employed elsewhere.

Mr. ROBSON: But what is the statutory authority giving the local education authority power to impose such conditions? Is the local education authority entitled to impose as a condition that the child shall not have its religious instruction elsewhere?

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said that the local education authority could say that a child should be in the school, or, if not in the school, they must be satisfied for the reason of his absence.

Mr. BROADHURST: That is to say, the conscience clause is absolutely abolished?

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said that the by-law did not abolish the conscience clause; it merely provided that the child need not be present on the school premises during religious instruction. He quite understood the desire of hon. Members to make some remarks on the working of the Education Act before the close of the session. The great case of the failure of the Act alleged by hon. Members was that a timid auctioneer took a revolver to an auction. The Education Act could not be held responsible for that. As to what would be done if County Councils refused to levy a rate, the business of the Department was to see that the schools were maintained efficiently. When that was not done the question suggested by hon. Members would arise. Hon. Members had secured a promise from the leaders of their party to repeal a portion of the Education Act as soon as they came into power. That being so, as the Act was admitted to be the law, would it not be better to observe the law while it remained the law? When he observed the action of other religious denominations, that the Jews had for long paid rates for Christian teaching, and that the Roman Catholics had paid rates for religious instruction of which they did not approve, he could not but think that the conscience of the Nonconformist body was a somewhat pampered conscience. Anxious as he was to sympathise with religious scruples of every denomination, he could not sympathise with these. Passive resistance he regarded mainly as a political move, and the remarks addressed to the House on that subject in this debate as uttered for a political purpose. One or two other points had been referred to, but they were points which were more within the province of the President of the Local Government Board to answer.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said that so far as he was concerned he believed that Nonconformists had many legitimate grievances in this matter, and that he did not regard the arguments which had been used by the hon. Gentleman as either reasonable or fair. But the question he desired to raise had nothing to do with education. It was the question of Macedonia, and the reason he was compelled to raise the question again to-day was that the position was becoming more acute, that the insurrection was spreading, 20,000 insurgents were under arms on the one hand, while, on the other, the Turkish authorities were distributing arms to the Mussulmans which could only end in massacre, and it was clear that a crisis was approaching. Of all the Powers responsible for the present position in Macedonia the gravest responsibility was on the British Government. But for the action of Lord Beaconsfield the greater part of Macedonia would have been free from Turkish rule. No Englishman could look back on the action of his Government at that time without a feeling of horror. The speech of the Prime Minister on this subject revealed a gross misunderstanding of the situation; and his statement that—

> "Historic truth requires us to say that the balance of criminality lies rather on the revolutionary bands than on the Turkish Government"

was most disastrous. It implied that the sympathy of this country was with the oppressors and not with the oppressed. There was no foundation for the suggestion that the rising in Macedonia was not spontaneous, but was engineered from outside. The correspondent of the *Daily News* said that the Turks had made Macedonia "a hell upon earth," and the Correspondent of *The Times*, commenting on the speech of the Prime Minister said that he had spent much time in searching for outrages committed by the Christians on the Turks and had found only one case, and that, according to this correspondent's account, was very questionable. *The Times* correspondent also dealt with the suggestion that this revolt was engineered from outside, and said that he had spent three months in trying to establish this fact and had failed, and he went on to say that the rising might fairly be called a national one as far as the Macedonian Bulgars were concerned. Everybody, no matter what his nationality might be, who had been to Macedonia within recent years, had described the state of things there as absolutely intolerable. It was really the Turkish Government who were responsible, having by organised anarchy created a state of things which in the long run would be disastrous to Turks as well as Christians. The hon. Member proceeded to quote extracts from recent works published in England and America, describing scenes witnessed by the authors, and maintained that with such outrages going on, it needed no encouragement from outside to drive the people to rebellion. It was really no exaggeration to say that, so far as the condition of the Macedonian and other Christian subjects under the Porte was concerned, the Empire was one of massacre, lust, and anarchy.

Was the Prime Minister really doing justice to himself, his government, or his country, to say nothing of the people themselves, when he assumed an attitude of carefully balanced judgment in deciding where the responsibility rested? The whole responsibility rested with the Government which created such a state of things. The present reign of misrule could not last, it would pass away as the Turkish Government in Roumania, Servia, and Bulgaria had passed away. In Crete almost the same state of things had existed as now prevailed in Macedonia, and every man who in this House dared to call attention to the state of the island was reprimanded for encouraging a rebellion which was bound to end in failure. In spite of those warnings they continued to call attention to the matter, with the result that intervention was secured, and Crete was now in the enjoyment of peace, freedom, and the beginning of prosperity. The Prime Minister ought not to assume an attitude of, not benevolent, but almost hostile neutrality to Christians who were fighting for the rights of manhood and womanhood. The nations of Europe who had power to deal with this matter should be given to understand that in any attempt to liberate the people of Macedonia they would have the sympathy of the people and the Government of this country. He hoped the Prime Minister would find it consistent with his duty to make a statement different from that made a few days ago, which would give Bulgarians some hope of a restoration of peace.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool had not in the least exaggerated the condition of things in Macedonia not only at the present time, but for many years past. The record of the Turkish Empire since the

Treaty of Berlin was a terrible one. Nobody except those who had followed events in Asiatic Turkey and Macedonia since 1886 had any idea of the horrors which had been daily going on under Turkish Government in nearly all the provinces inhabited by Christians, especially in those parts most removed from Western knowledge, such as the interior of Asia Minor and Macedonia. The Prime Minister stated the other day that—"Historic truth required us to lay the balance of criminality on the shoulders of the revolutionary bands."

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) was understood to deny the statement.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he would read the passage; it was from *The Times*—

> "Historical truth requires us to say that the balance of criminality lies rather on the revolutionary bands than on the Turkish Government."

MR. BRYCE said he understood that to be the statement of the right hon. Gentleman. The balance of criminality could only be decided by the tribunal of Infinite justice; it was not for Parliament to decide. At all events, when the balance of criminality came to be ultimately awarded, some share of responsibility would lie upon those who had kept these regions under the Turkish Government. If the Treaty of San Stefano had been carried out, the regions in which most of these horrors had been going on in European Turkey would have been removed from the rule of Turkey; and they could not help remembering that the Treaty of Berlin, which was made the subject of so much congratulation and glorification, was the means of throwing back these unhappy people under the dominion of Turkey. They all knew that Macedonia would follow Roumania, Bulgaria, Servia, Greece, and Crete, and would be emancipated from the rule of Turkey. Surely if that was to be so, the sooner the better. Surely the sooner these horrors came to an end the better; and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would say that he had no intention of accusing him of being indifferent to the present terrible state of affairs, but he hoped he would be able to give the House an assurance that the influence and power of Great Britain would be used to bring this state of things to an end as soon as possible, to encourage the Powers responsible, but not solely responsible—for we were also responsible—to take vigorous and prompt measures for putting an end to a state of things under which such horrors were possible, and to bring about a permanent settlement by the elimination of Turkish rule from these territories, and by giving the people a chance, under a *régime* of autonomy and freedom, of obtaining happiness and prosperity.

Passing to the questions raised by his hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon, the mistake seemed to him to have chiefly arisen from some words used by the President of the Board of Education in another place, which put an interpretation on the by-law which, he thought, it did not bear, because he was understood to mean that the local authorities or the Board of Education would have the right to insist that, wherever a child was withdrawn from one kind of religious instruction, an assurance should be given that it should receive another kind. Surely there was nothing in the by-law to justify such a statement.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON was understood to say that the words used were "withdrawn from school during religious instruction."

MR. BRYCE said that he understood the passage to mean that a child must have some kind of religious instruction, and he need hardly repeat that it was perfectly clear that the right of a parent to withdraw his child from religious instruction was absolute. He assumed that the hon. Baronet did not mean to go further than to say that the local education authority was to be satisfied that the withdrawal was a *bonâ fide* withdrawal on religious grounds, and not a withdrawal in order that the child might be employed. The Board of Education would require to watch very carefully the operation of the by-law in order to see that it was not misused or used to interfere with the right of the parent to withdraw his child. He understood that the hon. Baronet opposite withdrew the intention attributed to the Board of Education of sanctioning the purchase of prayer-books and other religious books by the local authority; but what was the position? The Board of Education said that the local authority was responsible for the efficiency of religious teaching. How could it be if it had no control over religious teaching? The religious teaching was entirely under the control of the denominational managers, and the local authority had nothing to do with it. He was informed that the Gloucestershire County Council was a strong Tory body with a large Tory Church of England majority upon it. If anybody was disposed to throw the charge of these books on the local authority they were, but that Council repudiated this because they knew if the local authority had anything to do with the matter it would have a right to the selection of the books. It was quite impossible that this matter should stand as it was. It could not be said in the same breath that the control of religious education in the non-provided schools was entirely in the hands of the sectarian managers, and also that the local authority was responsibile for the efficiency of religious education. That was a wholly illogical position.

With regard to the point put by his hon. friend the Member for Shields, it was quite clear that in the enforcement of an Act like this it was eminently desirable that the utmost possible care should be taken by the Departments concerned, especially by the Local Government Board, which had control over the rate collectors, and the Home Office, which had control over the police, to secure that there should be as little friction as possible in the administration of the Act. He believed the Secretary to the Board of Education had spoken of the passive resistance movement as a political movement. The remarkable feature of the movement was, not that it was political, but that it had engaged the interest and sympathy of a great number of people belonging to both political Parties, and also of people who took little or no interest in Party politics. The Government did not seem aware of the nature of the forces they were setting in motion by this Act. They had seen forces set in motion far stronger than any of them expected to see, and they had seen a state of things produced which had not been seen in this country before. There would certainly have to be further legislation on this subject. They could not leave the question of religious instruction and other parts of the educational problem in their present state, and no Government could be in power in this country without dealing further with this matter. This was a movement which would make any Government feel its power to an extent which the right hon. Gentleman had not realised. With regard to what fell from the hon. Member for Liverpool, he might say that it had been the practice to claim Roman Catholics as being the supporters through thick and thin of this policy, but he thought he was right in saying that even Catholics recognised that there were serious grievances under which the Nonconformists of this country suffered.

He also wished to allude to what had been said in another place as to our diplomatic relations with Venezuela. The House of Commons would remember the dispute they had with Venezuela which culminated in the blockading of her coast, and which on the 3rd February was settled by a protocol in which Venezuela admitted the claims of the British and German Governments, and undertook to set apart 30 per cent. of the receipts of her Customs in order to meet those claims. She was to set apart that 30 per cent. from the 30th March last, and it was further provided that the rights of the different creditors of Venezuela were to be determined by a tribunal sitting at The Hague. The settlement come to with Venezuela was to be carried through by the protocol of 7th May, and he wished to call the attention of the House to the terms of that protocol. The first article decided the question whether Great Britain, Germany, and Italy were entitled to preferential treatment of their claims against Venezuela, and it said that, Venezuela having agreed to set apart 30 per cent. of the Customs revenue, the tribunal at The Hague should determine how it should be divided between the Powers. Article III. provided that the Emperor of Russia was to be asked to name three arbiters to constitute a tribunal to meet on 1st September. It was further provided that other nations having claims against Venezuela might join in the arbitration in order to have their say on the question how far the Customs revenue set apart should be appropriated to the three Powers named. This protocol was intended to be a complete and final settlement of the case. The House would notice that it was an agreement made between Great Britain and Venezuela which was absolutely final as between them, without requiring the concurrence of any of the other Powers. He desired to ask the Government what steps had been taken to carry out the protocol. Would they also state whether he was correctly informed that up to now Venezuela had paid 30 per cent. of the Customs revenues into the bank? He further asked whether His Majesty's Government had applied to the Emperor of Russia to nominate the tribunal of three. He understood that Venezuela and the United States were acting in conjunction in the matter. The House would remember that Venezuela was almost under tutelage in this matter. At any rate, the United States had applied to the Emperor of Russia to nominate the three arbiters. Had the British Government joined in the application? He presumed they had not yet done so, or the House would have heard of it. Something was said on the subject in another place yesterday, and he could not clearly gather whether the Government had addressed this application to the Emperor of Russia or not. If they had not done so, he should like to know why. What was the reason of the delay, and what would happen if the tribunal was not ready to act on 1st September? Venezuela's engagements appeared to be conditioned on the action of the tribunal. Had Germany made a parallel agreement? Was she going to ask the Emperor of Russia to appoint a tribunal? How far was Germany's action or inaction affecting our action? It was desirable to avoid all risks of keeping open a transaction which was not only troublesome with regard to Venezuela, but might involve the possibilities of friction with the United States.

He had one other word to say before sitting down. He was aware that he could not, under the Speaker's ruling on the Second Reading, discuss the merits of our fiscal policy, but he desired, within the limits of that ruling, to refer to the tables of figures bearing on British trade, which they were now told would be published within a month from now. A month ago the Prime Minister said he expected to present them before the House rose. The other day he told the House that they had been received by the Cabinet—how long ago did not appear—but they could not yet be published because it was necessary to verify the figures and correct the proofs. The correction of proofs could not affect the broad results. The case on which some members of the Cabinet relied to settle their minds must be independent of the correctness of the additions of columns of figures or a slight alteration in the details, and there would be those who would think that surely something might have been done, having regard to the expectations raised on 14th July, to accelerate the correction of those proofs and the publication of the reports, so that Members of the House might have had them in their hands before they separated. With the receipt by the Government of these figures and tables, which they had now in their hands, the last plea for a longer maintenance of what he might call this farcical inquiry disappeared. The Government might now at once decide upon the question which lay before them, and those who were still halting between two opinions might let an impatient country know where the Cabinet stood in this matter. He was astonished at the position in which they left the Government to carry on the affairs of the country for the next six months as this Bill enabled them to do. They saw, as they never saw before, a member of the Government assailing through the Press, and apparently prepared to assail on the platform, a policy which many of his colleagues approved, while the head of the Government, the Leader of the House, refused the House an opportunity for a supremely important discussion, except under conditions which would deprive that discussion of the greatest part of its value. This enforced silence was not only a humiliation to the House of Commons, it was also an injury, and a novel injury, to the working of the Constitution of the land.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the kind of criticism in which the right hon. Gentleman has indulged towards the end of his speech is extremely absurd. As the House very well knows, public attention has been directed to fiscal problems, not for the first time, but to a degree—I quite admit—which has not been reached before. Nothing that I know of has been said by a Minister of the Crown which that Minister had not himself said on some previous occasion; and it is only that the matter has taken a deep hold on public opinion, which has led, I suppose, to that kind of criticism of which the right hon. Gentleman has just given us a specimen. I deny that anything I have done has interfered with the liberty of the House in the smallest degree, or has, in the smallest degree, touched our inherent right of public criticism.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): You refused a day for the discussion.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Am I to give a day for anything any hon. Member would like to discuss?

Mr. ROBSON: Why have not the Papers been laid on the Table?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: If the Papers had been laid it would not have altered the case for discussion in the least. There is no pending question before the House, and, what is more, there never will be a pending question during the life of the present Parliament. Why, then, is the House to be compelled to hurry on, before the proofs can be corrected, a discussion on certain Board of Trade Returns; in view of what decision? No decision that this House can ever be asked to take.

Mr. BRYCE: We were invited to a discussion.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Not by me.

Mr. BRYCE: By the principal mover in this matter.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Then the right hon. Gentleman abandons his high constitutional doctrine, and it is simply an *obiter dictum* of my right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary upon which he bases his application.

Mr. BRYCE: I base it on both.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I will not continue that branch of the subject. But, before leaving it, I must remark that I have never yet heard so absurd a suggestion made in this House as that the Board of Trade should be required to publish elaborate statistical tables before they can be corrected; or that we should be called upon to give our own rough impression of what they contain in anticipation of their publication; and that not with a view to any immediate action on the part of this House, or of any politican in the House. So much for the printing of these Returns, which I hope hon. Gentleman will have at no very distant date, and which I can assure the right hon. Gentleman we have every desire to publish as soon as possible. Then the right hon. Gentleman asked me about Venezuela. I do not quite know what he has at the back of his mind that induced him to make the rather long appeal to me, of which I do not complain, but which I am unable to understand. It is perfectly true there has been some more or less unexpected delay in the steps preliminary to the sitting of the tribunal at The Hague. This, however, is not due to the action of Germany, as the right hon. Gentleman seems to suggest.

Mr. BRYCE: I did not suggest it.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Then why drag in Germany? The right hon. Gentleman most inaccurately observed that in his judgment Germany dictated the policy of this country.

Mr. BRYCE: I did not say that. I said you keep in very close touch with Germany.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no objection to that statement at all. So far as I know Germany is taking on her part a parallel course to that which we are taking on ours. Though there has been a delay I do not think it is due at all to our actions, or to Germany's action.

It is rather due to the fact that France and Spain raise some objection to English being the language which was to be used in the proceedings at The Hague. It has been arranged, and very properly and satisfactorily arranged, that the tribunal itself shall decide what is to be its language and what its procedure. The right hon. Gentleman appears to suppose, in the first place, that there is very little chance of the tribunal sitting on 1st September; and that, in the second place, if it did not sit on 1st September Venezuela would be released from her engagements to the Powers.

MR. BRYCE: I carefully avoided saying that. I only want to know what the Government think as to her position.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman may feel quite easy on that point. Venezuela will not be released. In any case I do not think the contingency will arise, as I have every hope that the tribunal will sit on 1st September. The Powers have requested the Emperor of Russia to name the members of the general tribunal who are to take part in this particular judicial transaction, and I believe the tribunal will be at work on the date contemplated.

MR. BRYCE: When was that request made?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It was quite recently, but I cannot give the exact date.

MR. BRYCE: Was it within the last few days?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think so. Then the right hon. Gentleman made an excursion into the education question, in which I do not think I need follow him. He told us that we had not foreseen the strength and magnitude of the forces which have been aroused by the attempt to deal in a broad manner with the problems of education in this country. The right hon. Gentleman is mistaken on that point. My own view is that the problem of education could not, in justice to the country, be deferred, and that it could not be dealt with without raising religious difficulties. The right hon. Gentleman carefully abstained—and I am glad he did so—from saying a word in commendation of what is known as the passive resistance movement, a movement of which I will only say that I am now, and have always been, astonished at the want of logic which it displays, because the very persons who are engaged in this movement on the ground that under the Education Act of last year public money is used for teaching religious doctrines with which they disagree, are the first to insist that public money shall be spent in teaching in the schools religion with which they do agree. The passive resisters are the very first to insist that rates should be paid for that purpose. How they can reconcile their position with the elementary principles of logic I have never yet been able to understand.

I go now to the question of Eastern Europe. The few words which I said the other day on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill have been very severely criticised by the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool as being perfunctory and inadequate. I do not suggest for a moment that I attempted in that speech to traverse the long, bloodstained, and tragic history of the Eastern question. I did not even go back to the days of Lord Beaconsfield, to which neither the hon. Gentleman nor the right hon. Gentleman opposite could refrain from referring. I think very scant justice has been done by persons of the way of thinking of the right hon. Gentleman opposite to the great task that was performed by Lord Beaconsfield's Government in preserving the peace of Europe. But I am not going to deal with the question now, nor am I going to ask the House to endeavour to apportion the responsibility among the various historical causes which for centuries have been at work, and which have led to the present disastrous condition of Macedonia. If you are going to begin at any time in that history, had you not better at once go back to the original divisions among the Christians of Eastern Europe, divisions not yet healed, without which the Turks would never have been there at all, and which, had they been healed even in recent times, I think the present condition of things in Macedonia would not have arisen? I grieve to say that these divisions among Christians, dating back for many centuries, have not been healed, and they are still producing the same baleful results in the twentieth century as in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries. When the hon. Member for the Scotland Division tells me that I am historically inaccurate in the account of affairs in Macedonia which I gave the other day, let me respectfully retort on him and say that he has not really grasped one of the deepest sources of mischief at the present moment in Macedonia, which is, that the Christians are not united in the praiseworthy object of obtaining an amelioration of their wretched lot and an improvement in the Turkish administration, but that their methods of barbarism are directed against each other. It is not the Turk alone, deep as is his guilt, who is responsible for the present miserable condition of Macedonia.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I think it is the Turkish rule that has produced it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sorry to say that these Christian dissensions existed before the Turks came there. It is that the Turks came there because of these dissensions, rather than that these dissensions are due to anything which I can discover the Turks have done. To represent what is going on in Macedonia now as simply a quarrel between Turk and Christian is wholly to misunderstand the situation; and, while I have never said a word that could be twisted even by political animosity into anything but the deepest horror and reprobation of those dreadful deeds which have been done by Turkish officials and Turkish soldiers, it is folly to forget that Christians have been committing during the last few years atrocities on Christians, and that it is not simply to deal with the Turks that these Bulgarian bands are ravaging the country, not simply even to enlist the sympathy of Europe, but to drive or persecute Christians differing from themselves into the fold of their own special form of orthodoxy.

MR. BRYCE: That is not the case.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I say it is the case.

MR. BRYCE: There is a great deal of race hostility, but the state of things is not primarily due to religious animosity.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I never used the word primarily. But what the Government have got to do is not to endeavour to apportion the blame between those that are responsible, but to improve the condition of things that exist in Macedonia. And how is that end to be accomplished? We are of opinion that the best chance of accomplishing a most difficult task is by supporting the two Governments most nearly concerned in this matter in their endeavours to improve the Turkish administration in that part of Eastern Europe. That is the policy of His Majesty's Government. I cannot imagine anybody thinking it would be an improvement on that policy if we were to bring in all the signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, to let them oust from the position of leadership Austria and Russia, and take the thing in hand themselves. It is difficult enough for two Powers to do it; the difficulty would be augmented with every new Power that takes a leading part in the matter; and I am convinced that Europe is doing the best it can for the interests of those populations by giving all the support which it is able to give to the Governments most nearly concerned, most competent to deal with it, and who have, by their mere geographical situation, the deepest interest in the reasonable Government of the Balkan Peninsula, and the most urgent motives for preventing the conflagration from spreading to any wider area. The hon. Gentleman opposite apparently tried to revive the old passions raised by the Bulgarian atrocities of twenty-five or twenty seven years ago. I do not think, if he desires to make political capital out of it, that he will succeed.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I do not think the right hon. Gentleman is entitled to make that observation. I want to protect the Christians of Macedonia. That is my only object.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am glad to have that disclaimer. Then he and I are, in that, perfectly at one. I gathered from the strictures he passed on former Conservative Administrations and comments he passed on some observations of mine the other day, that his object was not absolutely an unmixed one, though I never doubted his sincere desire to ameliorate the lot of this unhappy people. The Government share that object. They have no stronger desire than to see good government established in regions which, one might almost say, have hardly known it in recent historical times, and whose lot has certainly not improved with the march of civilisation in more favoured regions. I have explained to the House the way in which we think that end can best be attained. I do not gather from the right hon. and learned Gentleman opposite that they dissent from us in that view, and if we are agreed upon the end and upon the means, I do not think there is much room for any exchange of unfriendly compliment between the two sides of the House. I have now traversed the whole ground, and I do not think that any Question has been left unanswered.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) asked if the full text of the proceedings at the Colonial Conference was to be published.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the replies of the Colonial Premiers had not yet been received; but the Government had no objection whatever to the course suggested.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): I do not think that the House will be inclined to agree with the Prime Minister that he has done nothing to restrict the liberty of debate in this House. I will not, however, question that point further; but, whatever views may be entertained regarding the action of the right hon. Gentleman, it is certain that our rules leave us in a position of very little liberty; and I venture to assert that if our rules had been in force in the Roman Senate it would have been perfectly impossible and the——

MR. SPEAKER: The question of the rules of the House do not arise on the Appropriation Bill.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: I did not intend, in any way, to comment on your decision, Mr. Speaker, but merely to point out in one sentence the difficulty under which we labour. I have, Sir, studied, with the greatest attention, the ruling you gave on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill; and I can assure you Sir, that in the very few remarks I will address to the House I shall confine myself within its strictest limits. It is perfectly reasonable on the part of the Prime Minister not to publish information collected by Departments of the State until it is carefully checked and verified and until he and his colleagues have had an opportunity of considering it. That is a course which ought to commend itself to the House. What we complain of in regard to this inquiry is not the collection of materials and the digestion of evidence; we complain of the wild and premature speeches of Ministers committing the country apparently to a great change. We would venture to suggest that it would have been a very good thing if the numerous leaflets of the Birmingham Tariff Committee had also been kept in a state of "advance proof" until the inquiry had been completed, and until the figures could have been carefully checked by the right hon. Gentleman and by competent officials. In that case, the Free Food League, in which the right hon. Gentleman behind me is so much interested, need not have come into existence; and we would all have been spared a great deal of trouble.

What is the position in which the Government has been placed by these premature disclosures. We know that some members of the Cabinet are said to entertain a very strong opinion that the result of the inquiry will be fatal to free trade. We believe that they are perfectly sincere and that they are ready to sacrifice their political position. We believe, on the other hand, that there is another portion of the Cabinet not less willing to make great sacrifices, who believe the contrary. But the class of Cabinet Minister who appear to me to claim most sympathy from the House in consequence of this inquiry are under neither of these two headings. They are a class of right hon. Gentlemen—all good men, all honest men—who are ready to make great sacrifices for their opinions, but they have no opinions. They are ready to die for the truth, if they only knew what the truth was. Their opinions are only in the "advance proof" stage; and will be carefully corrected and revised by the Prime Minister before they are actually made public; and I do not think that the House ought to separate without expressing sympathy with these right hon. Gentlemen. They are weary of office; they wish anything would relieve them of its cares, but their patriotic duty obliges them to remain, although they have no opinions to offer, holding their position undecided and yet unflinching, like George II. at the Battle of Dettingen, *sans peur et sans avis.* Either the inquiry in its result will be favourable to the Colonial Secretary or it will not. In either case there will be a difficulty. If the inquiry is unfavourable to the Colonial Secretary, after the very strong opinions he has expressed it seems to me he will be in a very difficult position. If on the other hand the result of the inquiry is favourable to his opinions, if the Board of Trade has collected facts and figures which show that our position is entirely wrong, that we are rapidly degenerating into ruin, that we are overrun by the foreigner, and that our colonies will desert us, then the Prime Minister will be in a very difficult position, because then a very revolutionary change will naturally follow. I would venture to remind my right hon. friend—and it is the principal reason for my venturing to obtrude on the House—that he has given very distinct and very definite pledges in this respect of the Party. I would remind him of the words he used only a year ago, when he received the Leadership of the greatest and most powerful political instrument created for a hundred years in this country. The right hon. Gentleman, speaking on that occasion with all deliberation to his supporters, said—

> "As for the question of policy, I need hardly tell you that the policy of the Unionist Party remains now as it always has been."

[MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear.] The right hon. Gentleman cheers that. I wish we could attach hope to that cheer. The right hon. Gentleman added—

> "If a change there must be in the headquarters staff responsible for carrying on the operations, there is no change in these operations or in the methods by which these operations can alone be obtained."

I earnestly hope that the right hon. Gentleman will not forget these words; and that is the reason why I suggest that if the inquiry results in a violent and revolutionary change, he will find himself in a difficult position.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I shall be all right.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: I hope that interruption is intended to give the right hon. Gentleman's supporters real comfort, and not merely to indicate that when the occasion arises the right hon. Gentleman's mental agility will be equal to the greatest difficulty. Parliament is now separating. Is this House of Commons ever going to meet again? It is very important to establish that fact. Will the right hon. Gentleman give us a pledge that this Parliament will meet again? The right hon. Gentleman will not give us that pledge; he has no power to give us that pledge. A doubt, an unworthy doubt, has sometimes come across my mind. I have sometimes doubted whether the right hon. Gentleman's policy has been so disingenuous, so haphazard, so dictated by circumstances beyond his control, as I would gladly believe, whether in fact it is merely a serious and honest, but a somewhat undignified, attempt to keep the Cabinet together rather than a tactical deployment to commit a great Party to a new policy against which its instinct revolts and distrusts—a policy which in the minds of the wisest and oldest counsellors in its ranks would lead to ruin and failure, whether it is an attempt to coax the Party over difficult ground, and to commit it to a position which, had there been full opportunity of debate, the Party would have repudiated. I cannot hold to that view, because to do so would be to say that the right hon. Gentleman has been guilty of bad faith to his followers and friends.

Therefore I put that doubt aside. But he said that if the result of all these Parliamentary manœuvres as to this "inquiry" should be that this Parliament was going to a general election in November, either with or without the right hon. Gentleman's will, and if an electoral decision was given which inflicted widespread and lasting injury and ruin on the Conservative Party, then there might be those who would arise and attribute designs to the various incidents by which that result had been attained, and they would be much less ready to believe that they were serious and honest makeshifts to tide over a very difficult situation. But there was one protest which must be made. The noble Lord the Member for Greenwich complained the other day that the inquiry had given rise to novel Cabinet proceedings and precedents of Ministerial responsibility. He had nothing to add to these words of his noble friend. But there was one other constitutional point which the Conservative Party might well consider. A deliberate attempt was being made to exchange discussion in the House for discussion in the country. Discussion in the country might be good and enlightening; but to change the venue from the Imperial Parliament to the political platforms all over the country was not the method of the statesman, but of the demagogue; and it was a method against which the Conservative Party of all Parties in the world ought to protest. But in registering that protest, in order that it might not be misunderstood, he would say at once that those who took the free trade view of this controversy did not in the least shrink from the discussion under any conditions the Government might prescribe or in any localities they might select. They might object to the methods employed, which were unconstitutional, and they might protest against a practice which they knew to be unusual, but this year or next year, in Parliament or in the country, they would be perfectly ready to meet the Colonial Secretary on the issue he had raised, confident that, in their appeal to he wisest democracy in the world, right and reason would prevail.

Sir WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne) said it seemed to be their duty to consider whether it was right to trust the enormous sums involved in this Bill to those who were going to have the administration of it. The Government had to administer the law and they were also the persons who had to bring forward a policy. It was a very difficult matter for the Prime Minister to carry out a policy when he had not got one. The Government appeared to be at the present moment absorbed in a search after truth which left them no time properly to carry out their other duties. The Government were anxious inquirers but inefficient administrators. In this Bill they were proposing to expend a certain amount of money to educate the Government, and teach them on a great question of policy. They could not deal with that question of policy to-day, but they could say they did not want an inquiry. They had been inquiring into the policy for sixty years, and were quite satisfied with it. They objected to the public funds being expended in simply teaching the Government what they ought to have known before. The Government were in a very extraordinary position. There had been all sorts of Governments in this country. There had been bad Governments with a good policy, and good Governments with a bad policy, but this was the first bad Government he had ever heard of which had no policy at all. Nobody in that House more admired the mental agility and charming dexterity with which the Prime Minister met all attacks upon him and his policy, but still that did not give them confidence. If Mr. Speaker for his well-earned holiday went for a voyage in a ship and asked the captain where he was going, he would not be very well satisfied if the captain said he did not know. That is just the position with regard to the Prime Minister on one of the most important questions that could engage their attention. He reminded the House of the British Ambassador who, in a despatch wrote "some say the Pretender is dead and some say he is alive. For my part I believe neither." That was the exact position of the Prime Minister who in effect said "Some say free trade is good and some say it is bad, but for my part I believe neither." It was an admirable attitude for a philosopher but fatal for a Premier. Mr. Arthur Chamberlain said, the other day—

> "The present Government becomes every day more immoral, more retrograde and more dangerous to the material, mental, and moral welfare of the people."

That came from Birmingham and what Birmingham said to-day England would say to-morrow. All he could say was that the sooner England said it the better it would be for its welfare, happiness and prosperity.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.) reminded the House that recently the Government appointed a Commission in Ireland to inquire into the condition of the Irish workhouses. At the time Irish Members pointed out that, in regard to the composition of that Commission, they thought they had been very unfairly treated. Two Government officials were appointed to represent the official side, and one of the hon. Members for Tyrone, who did not represent the Irish Party, was the third member of the Commission. The right hon. Gentleman might say it was too late to do anything to alter the composition of the Commission, because it had already commenced its work. He complained that no information appeared to be forthcoming as to where the inquiries of the Commission were going to be held. Careful inquiry was necessary, because he knew of policemen in receipt of substantial salaries who went into Irish workhouses on the plea of being sick, but really for the sake of taking a holiday. He thought the poor people of Ireland ought to be afforded proper opportunities of presenting their grievances before the Commission, and if it was found that the law was as it had been represented it might be changed as soon as possible. He wished to know from the Chief Secretary if the Commission was going to inquire into the treatment of the aged poor in the Irish workhouses. Many of those poor old people had been unable to save any money, and had no relatives to maintain them, and they were very often the worst treated of any of the people in the workhouses. As for the Labourers Acts, the Chief Secretary had stated, with reference to the balances, that his instructions had been carried out, and those balances had been applied to the credit of the districts where the Labourers Acts had been carried out. He wished the Chief Secretary to say something to indicate that those balances would be applied more to the counties which had done their best to carry out the Act.

He also wished to call attention to the action of the Congested Districts Board. It had already been pointed out that the Congested Districts Board had confined their attention to certain parts of Ireland. There were certain portions of the County of Kerry which were as much in need of assistance from the Congested Districts Board as any other part of Ireland. Nothing had been done in Kerry except the making of a few rules. A discussion had already taken place in regard to education in Ireland, and as to the application of the money set aside for that purpose. It was clearly apparent that a substantial portion of that money ought to be set apart for primary education in Ireland. The least inquiry on the part of the Chief Secretary would enable him to see that primary education in Ireland was sadly in need of assistance. There were many Irish Members deeply concerned in primary education in Ireland. It was the only form of education which could be taken advantage of by a large majority of the young people of the country, and for that reason he trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would regard it as his prime and principal concern to make the primary schools as efficient as they ought to be. Referring to the question of railway rates the hon. Member said it had been stated that the Board of Agriculture acted when a complaint was made to them. He thought it should be the function of the Board to see that reasonable rates were charged without waiting for complaints. The Great Southern and Western Company were making a substantial profit over a large portion of their line, but there were parts where by manipulation they were able to show that they were working at a loss, and the poor ratepayers were made to pay in consequence. He urged that something should be done in this matter.

MR. NOLAN (Louth, S.) said he believed the right hon. Gentleman was perfectly sincere in the action he had taken to bring about a better state of affairs in Ireland, and in his desire to introduce peace where there had been war. There were some of the parties to that war who did not seem to be desirous to meet the right hon. Gentleman in that matter. In his own constituency there was a property of notoriety. It was known as the Massereene estate. Notwithstanding the trouble which had taken place there between the landlord, the agents, and the tenants, he found that the present agent on the estate was proceeding with an eviction. This seemed a very hard case indeed. It was that of a widow, seventy years of age, who, after a long life of labour and struggle in her holding on this estate, found herself, when almost on her deathbed, threatened with eviction. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman could do anything in the matter. He believed that the rent had been paid in full for the past twelve years, but it appeared that on account of some arrears that had accrued, possibly in the famine years, she had been deprived of the benefits of the various Acts passed by this House for the relief of cases like hers. Now it was only a doctor's certificate that prevented the forces of the Crown from stepping in and taking her from her home to the workhouse, there to spend the remainder of her days as a pauper at the expense of the rates. He should like very much if the right hon. Gentleman would either by friendly representation to the landlord or by withholding the services of the forces of the Crown put a stop to what was a crying evil and a scandal.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) said the hon. Member for South Louth was aware of the fact that the Government could not intervene between parties where a legal debt was due. All he could say was that under the Land Purchase Act caretakers could purchase, and he hoped that the general effect of the Act would induce them to do so. The Executive Government could not intervene in questions when they arose as between parties in Ireland, nor would such intervention, if possible, be likely to be attended with good results. With regard to the matter to which the hon. Member for East Kerry had drawn attention, he failed to notice any new point raised which was not already present to his mind, or to that of some of his colleagues. The matters referred to, and many others, were receiving his attention.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.) asked whether the Viceregal Commission would have power to inquire into the grievances of dispensary officers. It was most important that inquiry should be allowed.

MR. WYNDHAM said that he had within the last ten days stated that the Commission would not take evidence upon that point, and he thought his position in that matter was a sound one. Until they knew what the facts were in regard to accommodation, and what savings could be affected by amalgamation of unions, and whether one could be devoted to the aged and another to the children, it must be clear that no useful purpose would be served by attempting to anticipate on the last day of the session a conclusion which at present could not possibly be arrived at.

DR. THOMPSON said that did not affect the Question he had asked.

MR. WYNDHAM said it did indeed. The question of the balances under the Labourers Acts would also receive his attention. He would also consider whether it was possible to have the materials collected for the Local Government Board Report in order that the Report might be presented at an earlier and more convenient date to Parliament. As to the Agricultural Board, that was a statutory body and could only act under statute when a representation was made to it. This was not the occasion on which to consider whether the Agricultural Department Act should be amended. He did not think that it was. It would be far more to the point if hon. Members who had complaints to make, brought specific cases against specific railways to the notice of the Department, or would communicate with himself, and they would be attended to.

MR. DELANY (Queen's Co, Ossory) said that he wished to support his hon. friend the Member for Kerry. What he asked was, that this money should not be diverted from the purposes for which it was originally attached, viz., to aid the rates in the erection of cottages for agricultural labourers. It should be distributed in fair proportion amongst the various unions where the Act was to come into operation. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would not make up his mind on the matter of the railway schemes until the whole facts had been laid before him.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.) asked if Constable Murphy, regarding whose conduct he had put a Question to the Chief Secretary, would be cautioned to behave himself while stationed at Nenagh. If not, he would ask that the constable be transferred to the North of Ireland or elsewhere.

*MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) said he wished to mention a matter in connection with the administration of Customs. When the coal tax was in Committee, he showed how the tax was evaded, and how the coalowners were perfectly entitled to evade it. The operation of the coal tax was simple. If small coal was sold at 6s. a ton, and large coal at 12s. 6d. a ton, no tax was paid. After his speech, the Commissioner of Customs inquired into the operations of two companies with which he was connected. Fortunately, one company did not ship any small coal at all; and in the other company he had nothing to do with the sales of coal, but he was still awaiting the result of the inquisition into other companies. He saw the Commissioner of Customs, who told him that he was entitled to sell without paying the tax for small coal at 6s. and large coal at 12s. 6d. if those were the current prices; but that he must not have in his mind the fact that he was evading the tax. He did not keep his commercial conscience in his boots; he took the law as he found it. The position was that he might evade the law, but that he must not say he was evading it. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury told him how much he was obliged to him for pointing the matter out; and then followed an inquisition into his own affairs. He would ask the Financial Secretary whether it would be possible to make other arrangements before Parliament met again. The present position was wholly ridiculous.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham) said that if the hon. Gentleman had given him notice he would have been able to give him some explanation. He would bring the whole matter before the Commissioner of Customs, and see how it stood. When next session arrived, or perhaps before, he would be able to give the hon. Gentleman a full explanation.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said in reply to the hon. Member for North Tipperary he could assure him that Constable Murphy was severely reprimanded, and transferred to another part of the country. That was the best way of preventing him from repeating the conduct for which he was reprimanded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, without Amendment.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and the Royal Assent was given to a number of Bills. (See page 1282.)

And afterwards His Majesty's most Gracious Speech was delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR (in pursuance of His Majesty's Commands),

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

By virtue of His Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's name, and in obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Monday the Second day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Monday the Second day of November next.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CXXVII.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Addenbrooke's Hospital		Read 3^a and passed 7th Aug. (385) Royal Assent 11th Aug. (790)
*Board of Agriculture and Fisheries	*Earl of Onslow*	Consideration of Commons Amendments 11th Aug. (834) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Borough Funds	*Lord Kenyon*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Burgh Police	*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*	Read 1^a 10th Aug. (531) Read 2^a 11th Aug. (796) All remaining Stages 12th Aug. (966) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)	*Duke of Devonshire*	All Stages 14th Aug. (1282) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
County Courts Jurisdiction Extension		Report 6th Aug. (111) Read 3^a and passed 10th Aug. (652) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Employment of Children	*Lord Belper*	Read 2^a 7th Aug. (374) Committee 10th Aug. (639) Report Read 3^a and passed } 11th Aug. (826) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Expiring Laws Continuance	*Duke of Devonshire*	Read 1^a 12th Aug. (954) All remaining Stages 14th Aug. (1282)
Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs [H.L.]	*Lord Templetown*	Read 2^a 7th Aug. (362)
*Housing of the Working Classes	*Lord Kenyon*	Read 1^a 12th Aug. (954) All remaining Stages 13th Aug. (1128) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress
*Ireland Development Grant	*Earl of Denbigh*	Read 1^a 6th Aug. (4) Read 2^a } Committee } 7th Aug. (377) Report } Read 3^a and passed 10th Aug. (652) Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Irish Land	*Duke of Devonshire*	Committee 6th Aug. (6) Committee 7th Aug. (268) Report 10th Aug. (579) Read 3^a and passed 11th Aug. (800) Consideration of Commons Amendments 13th Aug. (1125) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Isle of Man (Customs)	*Duke of Devonshire*	Read 1^a 11th Aug. (834) All remaining Stages 12th Aug. (976) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment	*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*	Read 3^a and passed 10th Aug. (577) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Local Government (Transfer of Powers)	*Lord Kenyon*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*London Education	*Duke of Devonshire*	Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
Marine Store Dealers (Ireland)	*Earl of Denbigh*	Report 6th Aug. (111) Read 3^a and passed 7th Aug. (385) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Marriages Legalisation	*Lord Belper*	Read 1^a 10th Aug. (531) All remaining Stages 11th Aug. (799) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Merchant Shipping [H.L.]	*Lord Wolverton*	Read 1^a 10th Aug. (653)
*Metropolitan Streets	*Lord Belper*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
Military Lands	*Lord Ludlow*	Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Military Works	*Earl of Hardwicke*	Read 1^a 10th Aug. (531) Read 2^a 11th Aug. (799) Committee } Report } 12th Aug. (966) Read 3^a and passed } Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Motor-Cars [H.L.]	*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*	Consideration of Commons Amendments 12th Aug. (955) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Naval Works	*Earl of Selborne*	Read 2ª 7th Aug. (364) All remaining Stages 10th Aug. (632) Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
Patent Office Extension		Report 12th Aug. (989) Read 3º and passed 13th Aug. (1120) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Patriotic Fund	*Earl of Selborne*	Read 1ª 7th Aug. (266) All remaining Stages 10th Aug. (539) Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
Pistols	*Earl of Donoughmore*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Poor Law (Dissolution of School Districts and Adjustments)	*Lord Kenyon*	Committee } 6 Aug. (111) Report } Read 3ª and passed 7th Aug. (385) Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Post Office Sites		Committee } 7th Aug. (381) Report } Read 3ª and passed 10th Aug. (639) Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Poor Prisoners' Defence	*Lord Chancellor*	Read 1ª 12th Aug. (954) All remaining Stages 13th Aug. (1119) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Public Buildings Expenses	*Lord Windsor*	Read 1ª 12th Aug. (954) All remaining Stages 13th Aug. (1119) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Public Offices (Dublin)	*Earl of Denbigh*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Public Works Loans	*Duke of Devonshire*	Read 1ª 10th Aug. (531) Read 2ª 11th Aug. (799) All remaining Stages 12th Aug. (966) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Railways (Electrical Power)	*Lord Wolverton*	Read 1ª 10th Aug. (530) Read 2ª 11th Aug. (799) All remaining Stages 12th Aug. (961) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by.	Progress.
*Revenue		All Stages 13th Aug. (1120) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Sheep Scab	*Earl of Onslow*	Read 1^a 11th Aug. (834) All remaining Stages (976) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*South African Loan and War Contribution	*Duke of Marlborough*	Read 1^a 10th Aug. (531) Read 2^a 11th Aug. (799) All remaining Stages 12th Aug. (961)
*Sugar Convention	*Marquess of Lansdowne*	Read 1^a 7th Aug. (266) All remaining Stages 10th Aug. (541) Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Town Councils (Scotland)	*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*	Read 1^a 10th Aug. (531) Read 2^a 11th Aug. (799) All remaining Stages 12th Aug. (974) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Addenbrooke's Hospital	*Sir R. Jebb*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (790)
Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools	*Mr. Jesse Collins*	Read 1^o 6th Aug. (154)
*Alkali, etc., Works	*Mr. Walter Long*	Read 1^o 12th Aug. (1035) Bill withdrawn 13th Aug. (1280)
*Bills of Exchange (1882) Amendment [H.L.]	*Sir Robert Finlay*	Bill withdrawn 11th Aug. (947)
*Board of Agriculture and Fisheries	*Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes*	Committee Report } 7th Aug. (528) Read 3^o and passed 10th Aug. (788) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Borough Funds	*Mr. Walter Long*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Burgh Police (Scotland)	*Mr. Asher*	Consideration Read 3^o and passed } 7th Aug. (528) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)	*Mr. Ritchie*	Read 1° 10th Aug. (771) Read 2° 11th Aug. (866) Committee Report } 12th Aug. (1080) Read 3° and passed 14th Aug. (1282) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
County Courts Jurisdiction Extension	*Sir Albert Rollit*	Consideration of Lords Amendments 11th Aug. (947) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
Ecclesiastical Suits	*Lord Hugh Cecil*	Read 1° 11th Aug. (866)
*Employment of Children	*Mr. Akers Douglas*	Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Expiring Laws Continuance	*Mr. Elliot*	Read 2° 6th Aug. (259) Committee Report } 10th Aug. (775) Read 3° and passed 11th Aug. (944) Royal Assent 14th Aug (1282)
*Housing of the Working Classes	*Mr. Walter Long*	Read 2° 6th Aug. (264) Committee 10th Aug. (783) Report Read 3° and passed } 11th Aug. (942) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Ireland Development Grant	*Mr. Wyndham*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Irish Land	*Mr. Wyndham*	Consideration of Lords Amendments 12th Aug. (1035) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Isle of Man (Customs)	*Mr. Elliot*	Committee Report } 7th Aug. (528) Read 3° and passed 10th Aug (788) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment	*Mr. A. Graham Murray*	Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Light Railways [H.L.]	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	Bill withdrawn 11th Aug. (952)
*Local Government (Transfer of Powers)	*Mr. Walter Long*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*London Education	*Sir William Anson*	Consideration of Lords Amendments 10th Aug. (781) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site)	*Sir William Anson*	Bill withdrawn 11th Aug. (947)
*Marine Store Dealers (Ireland	*Mr. Atkinson*	Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Marriages Legalisation	*Mr. Cochrane*	Report Read 3° and passed } 7th Aug. (528) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Metropolitan Improvements (Funds)	*Mr. Elliot*	Bill withdrawn 11th Aug. (947)
*Metropolitan Streets	*Mr. Akers Douglas*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
Military Lands	*Mr. Charles Allen*	Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Military Works	*Mr. Brodrick*	Read 3° and passed 7th Aug. (525) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Motor-Cars	*Mr. Walter Long*	Committee 7th Aug. (397) Report Read 3° and passed } 11th Aug. (907) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Naval Works	*Mr. Pretyman*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Patent Office Extension	*Mr. Elliot*	Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Patriotic Fund	*Mr. Pretyman*	Report Read 3° and passed } 6th Aug (263) Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Penal Servitude	*Mr. Akers Douglas*	Read 1° 10th Aug. (689) Bill withdrawn 13th Aug. (1280)
Pistols	*Mr. Helme*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Poor Law (Dissolution of School Districts and Adjustments)	*Mr. Grant Lawson*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
Poor Prisoners' Defence	*Mr. Bousfield*	Read 3° and passed 11th Aug. (947) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Port of London	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	Motion to carry over to next Session 12th Aug. (1111)
*Post Office Sites	*Mr. Austen Chamberlain*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (790)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Prevention of Corruption [H.L.]	*Sir Robert Finlay*	Bill withdrawn 11th Aug. (947)
*Public Buildings (Expenses)	*Mr. Elliot*	Read 2° 7th Aug. (525) Committee, Report 10th Aug. (772) Read 3° and passed 11th Aug. (943) Royal Assent 14th Aug (1282)
*Public Offices (Dublin)	*Mr. Elliot*	Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
*Public Works Loans	*Mr. Elliot*	Read 3° and passed 7th Aug. (527) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Railways (Electrical Power)	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	Report 6th Aug. (261) Read 3° and passed 7th Aug. (521) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
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*Revenue	*Mr. Elliot*	Read 2° 10th Aug. (785) Committee 11th Aug. (944) Report, Read 3° and passed 12th Aug. (1115) Royal sAsent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Sheep Scab	*Mr. Hanbury*	Consideration 7th Aug. (528) Read 3° and passed 10th Aug. (782) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*South African Loan and War Contribution	*Mr. Ritchie*	Read 3° and passed 7th Aug. (521) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)
*Sugar Convention	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	Read 3° and passed 6th Aug. (237) Royal Assent 11th Aug. (789)
Town Councils (Scotland)	*Mr. Asher*	Consideration, Read 3° and passed 7th Aug. (528) Royal Assent 14th Aug. (1282)

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TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[AUTHORISED EDITION].

TENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1903.

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Bills: Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [*c.*] = Commons. [*l.*] = Lords. *Amendt.* = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers. *Com.* = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote. Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

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